

Twelve US marines killed as Saddam sends tanks and ships to capture Saudi town

Hundreds of Iraqis die in land battle

By MICHAEL EVANS, CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN DHAHRAN AND JAMIE DETTMER ON BOARD HMS LONDON

HUNDREDS of Iraqis were reported killed in the first real land battle of the Gulf war yesterday. Twelve American marines were also said to have died in the fighting after the Iraqis launched a combined naval and ground operation apparently designed to capture a Saudi border town.

In the 12-hour sea battle, allied forces sank or set ablaze 17 Iraqi fast patrol boats. Iraq also began pumping oil into the Gulf from another terminal, at Mina al-Bakr, creating a second slick of thousands of barrels of oil.

British military sources said the raids could be a signal that Iraq intended to mount a major offensive instead of remaining in defensive positions, waiting for the allies to attack. The assaults were a way of probing allied positions and testing their response.

The combined Iraqi operation began at sea at 6pm on Tuesday, when 17 patrol and assault craft, armed with rocket launchers and machineguns and travelling at about 60 knots, headed south down the Gulf towards the border town of Khafji. They were spotted by helicopters from British and American warships on "picket duty" in the north of the Gulf. Royal Navy Lynx helicopters, Saudi helicopters and allied aircraft attacked the boats, sinking five and damaging 12. All the boats were carrying troops, a total of about 100-200 soldiers.

The first ground assault started at 7.25pm on Tuesday when 50 tanks, mostly old Soviet T55s, came through a gap in the Iraqi defensive line, west of Khafji and headed south, according to British sources. They were engaged by "allied forces" and about 13 of the tanks were destroyed. The Iraqis turned east and then back across the border after two hours.

The second raid started 35 minutes later when "disoriented Iraqi infantry" crossed the border further to the east, followed by 16 armoured

personnel carriers. "They came into contact with Saudi National Guard units," the British sources said. The engagement, which lasted for three hours, included artillery fire.

The third assault, at 9.05pm, was aimed directly at Khafji. A full mechanised battalion, consisting of 15 T55 tanks, 10 armoured personnel carriers and about 500 men, appeared north of Khafji and were engaged by US marines and Saudi forces. The mechanised battalion was joined by an infantry battalion with 35 armoured personnel carriers at 2.15am yesterday.

British sources said the Saudis eventually "disengaged" and the Iraqis pressed on into the outskirts of the town. The fighting continued between the US marines and the Iraqis for many hours. However the Iraqis were said to be "boxed in".

Another incursion was launched by the Iraqis much further west, close to the Kuwait-Iraqi border. At 11.15pm on Tuesday, an Iraqi company with four tanks crossed the border but there was no engagement and they went away again.

The fighting at Khafji, a ghost town deserted by its 14,000 Saudi inhabitants in the early days of the war, was described as "hellacious" by Lieutenant-Colonel Cliff Myers of the US Marines. The American victims were the first allied servicemen to die in ground fighting and the Iraqis were said to have suffered heavy losses of men and equipment. British government and American military sources said that could mean hundreds of dead.

Baghdad Radio said Iraqi troops had staged a lightning strike into "the kingdom of evil or Saudi Arabia" and that they had routed allied forces along a broad front. "The forces of Saddam Hussein are wiping out the renegade invaders and knocking out the forces of infidelity, corruption and treason."

The Mother of Battles radio station said that Saddam, the Revolutionary Command Council and military commanders planned the attack last Saturday. Saddam visited the troops in Basra on Sunday and issued orders for the plan to field commanders. Iraq said in a communiqué yesterday that its advance should not be taken as an attempt to invade Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi armoured column was said to have used a classic ruse by making its initial advance with tank gun turrets



Frontline town: a Saudi tank at the entrance to Khafji as smoke rises from a destroyed Iraqi armoured vehicle after yesterday's battle between Iraqi invaders and the allies

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reversed, an internationally-accepted sign of impending surrender. After a night of fighting, Saudi forces reported suddenly at 11.45am that a new column of 80 Iraqi armoured vehicles and around 4,000 men was approaching Khafji. Barely ten minutes after Marine Major Craig Huddleston had been told that the Iraqis wanted to surrender, and apparently were not "indicating any hostile intention", he declared: "They have now engaged the Saudi forces in combat and we are going to kill them." Soon after that, giant US 155mm Howitzer guns opened up with a repeated series of thunderous salvos towards the battle zone.

By 6pm, a Saudi military spokesman was claiming that "the situation is under the coalition forces control".

Allied success in the war at sea continued when British and American helicopters and fighter-bombers sank or set alight some 17 Iraqi missile-

carrying patrol boats. Senior British naval officers were jubilant, saying that a significant blow had been dealt to the Iraqi navy. "I believe we may have passed a watershed in the coastal phase of the maritime war," Commodore Christopher Craig, officer commanding British naval forces in the Gulf, said.

Allied naval air arms have mounted several missions to look for the Iraqi fast patrol boats in the past week. In particular, they have been keen to discover the locations of On class boats and the six TNC45s captured by Iraq during the August invasion. TNC45s are capable of 41 knots.

At the height of yesterday's clash, Commodore Craig praised his Lynx pilots. "We have a major engagement in train. At its heart are Royal Navy helicopters. We are neutralising several of the Iraqi navy's prime attack vessels." The allies suffered no

Continued on page 22, col 5

Splits in American policy on Gulf

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THE first splits in the Bush administration's Gulf policy appeared yesterday as White House officials attacked the campaign to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait was on schedule "by every measure". In the most comprehensive assessment so far, he disclosed the first impressive results of the massive air offensive of the past two weeks.

He said: "There's no way I am suggesting the Iraqi army is close to capitulation. But I am confident that the direction we are heading in is going to lead to the outcome we all want to see."

On Monday, he said, allied planes had hit the largest Iraqi ammunition dump in Kuwait, causing an explosion bigger than a volcano. He explained: "If, on a scale of one to ten, the eruption of a volcano registers ten... this registered a 12."

He said American B-52 bombers were dropping more than 400 tons of explosive a day on the elite Republican Guard divisions in or near Kuwait. In a 15-hour period on Tuesday 178 trucks, 55 artillery pieces and 52 tanks were destroyed or damaged.

General Schwarzkopf said 33 of the 36 principal bridges used for supplying Kuwait had been attacked at night. Only about 100 vehicles a day were using the main supply route compared with 1,000 previously, allowing only about 2,000 tons of supplies to reach

Confident Schwarzkopf says allies 'on schedule'

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

GENERAL Norman Schwarzkopf, the American commander of Operation Desert Storm, claimed yesterday that the campaign to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait was on schedule "by every measure".

In the most comprehensive assessment so far, he disclosed the first impressive results of the massive air offensive of the past two weeks.

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General Schwarzkopf said 33 of the 36 principal bridges used for supplying Kuwait had been attacked at night. Only about 100 vehicles a day were using the main supply route compared with 1,000 previously, allowing only about 2,000 tons of supplies to reach

troops, compared with 20,000 tons before. Iraqi troops in Kuwait were now begging for food, surviving on a bowl of rice or beans a day, and had no water for washing.

The commander said allied planes had destroyed 60 per cent of 26 "leadership" targets. A quarter of Iraq's electrical generating facilities had been destroyed and another 50 per cent "severely degraded".

Three-quarters of the enemy's command and control had been struck and a third were destroyed or inoperative. Saddam Hussein had been forced to use less effective and more vulnerable back-up systems.

The Iraqi airborne early-warning system had completely failed. The Iraqis had abandoned centralised control of their air defence system after 29 principal targets had been hit, and that accounted in part for the fact that only 19

allied aircraft had been lost in more than 30,000 sorties.

The general said 38 principal Iraqi airfields had been hit and at least nine were out of action. Seventy hardened bunkers for sheltering aircraft had been destroyed.

Iraqi aircraft were being put on roads, or hidden in residential areas, but were "running out of places to hide." He added: "The simple fact of the matter is that now every time an Iraqi aircraft takes off the ground it's running away."

Every one of 31 nuclear, biological and chemical weapons facilities had been attacked, said General Schwarzkopf. All the nuclear facilities had been destroyed and more than 11 chemical and biological storage facilities and three production facilities destroyed.

In addition, he said, 46 Iraqi ships had been sunk or disabled and 74 Iraqis captured.

INSIDE Soviet troops 'leave Baltic'

Some Soviet forces were reported to be leaving the Baltic states yesterday. Boris Fugo, the Soviet interior minister, said that all "army paratroopers" sent to the region had been withdrawn. Page 22
Shot youth dies, page 11
Censor Cruise O'Brien, page 12

Runcie farewell



Dr Robert Runcie, 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury, will retire tomorrow with tributes to a man whose humour lightened the ecclesiastical strife of the secular 1980s. Page 9
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Screening plea

About 1,250 women a year will be saved from death by breast cancer if they take part in a screening programme, say expert advisers. Page 7
Health, page 17

Pact welcomed

The peace accord between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party was almost uniformly welcomed in South Africa. Page 10

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Major in poll tax pledge

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major is prepared to see the poll tax review end with the abolition of the community charge and the restoration of domestic rates, in effect the policy espoused by the Labour party.

As Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, wrestles with the review of the community charge in an effort to produce preliminary conclusions in time for the local government elections in May, the prime minister was asked in an interview with *The Times* if the tax could be scrapped altogether in favour of a return to rates.

He replied: "It is a fundamental review and that means all options are open, yes." Asked specifically if the options included scrapping

the tax altogether and reintroducing rates, the prime minister replied: "Including those." Senior ministers are describing the community charge as "a boil which has to be lanced".

Mr Major strongly backed John Taylor, the black barrister whom some Conservatives in Cheltenham are seeking to have deselected as their prospective candidate.

The prime minister hinted at a cabinet reshuffle if the election is delayed until 1992. He said that he did not rule out the awarding of hereditary peerages during his time and indicated that he was ready to privatise companies owned by local authorities.

Confirming that he hoped to visit President Gorbachev

in Moscow early in March, Mr Major indicated that the trip might be called off if there was further Soviet repression in the Baltic states. He put a similar condition on future aid to the Soviet Union.

Mr Major said that the Western allies would probably maintain naval and air forces in the Gulf area after the conclusion of the war, either under United Nations control or in bilateral arrangements with Gulf states.

On the economy Mr Major said: "We have got inflation on the run, there is no doubt about that." Interest rates would come down, he said, as the inflation differential with our EC partners narrowed.

Major interview, page 12

Gentlemen's game left battered and bruised

By SIMON WILDE

CRICKET'S reputation for gentlemanly behaviour may have suffered a terminal blow after reports from India that a player assaulted a rival with a cricket stump. The incident took place during the closing stages of a domestic final in Jharkhand in Bihar on Tuesday.

Raman Lamba, who was batting at the time, was attacked by Rashid Patel, the bowler, who was eventually restrained, after two minutes, by his team mates. The game was called off after spectators went on a rampage.

Although there is no parallel to such an event in first class cricket, a similar incident in a club match in Delhi three years ago, involving Indian Test players Manoj Prabhakar and Maninder Singh, led to both being suspended from the national side. Prabhakar had hit Maninder on the arm with his bat after

being taunted. In Test cricket, the nearest comparison is the confrontation between Jarrod Miandad, of Pakistan, and Dennis Lillee, of Australia, during a match at Perth in November 1981. Miandad, who had been obstructed and kicked by Lillee as he completed a run, had squared up to strike the bowler with his bat before umpires intervened. In 1971, John Snow was dropped by England for one match after he had barged to the ground Somil Gavaskar, the Indian batsman, during a Test at Lord's.

Although players do not seem to have turned on each other before, they have for some years been showing their aggression towards others involved in the game. Colin Croft, the West Indies fast bowler, once shoulder charged an umpire in a Test match, while Rod McCurdy, the Australian, allegedly

kicked his manager in the dressing room on a tour of South Africa. The modern professional cricketer has perhaps suffered from inheriting a game that was long patronised by the leisured classes. Not the least of their problems is having to live up to the sort of eulogy to the game that Lord Harris penned to this newspaper almost 60 years ago. He wrote: "You do well to love it, for it is more free from anything sordid, anything dishonourable than any game in the world. To play it keenly, honourably, generously, self-sacrificingly is a moral lesson in itself, and the classroom is God's air and sunshine."

What his lordship failed to say was that once, while playing for Eton against Harrow at Lord's, he had caused a furore by running out, without warning, an opponent who was out of his ground at the non striker's end.

Confident: Schwarzkopf at yesterday's briefing

Confident: Schwarzkopf at yesterday's briefing

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Why the allies must hope Saddam will not give in soon

IF PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein were clever, he would mount strikes against the allied forces to inflict as many casualties as possible, then accept the ceasefire offered by Washington, while he still retains enough of his military might to be voted the Arab world's favourite leader.

With the allies boasting that they have the freedom to pick their targets on the ground at will, after achieving air supremacy, Saddam desperately needs some notches on his gun to prove to his own people and to his supporters in the Arab world that he can cause damage, too. The Scud attacks provided him with an initial psychological boost because of the outrage they generated in Israel and in the West.

He has had no other "successes", however, and con-

ventionally armed Scuds are no longer the terror weapon they were. The Iraqi incursions across the Saudi border early yesterday morning may be the first sign of Saddam's frustration at being thwarted by the air campaign. If he still believes that he is capable of waging "the mother of all battles" in Kuwait, he will want to try to draw the allied forces into an early land attack, making them vulnerable to his concealed artillery, mortars, and anti-tank weapons.

Apart from being given a chance to inflict casualties and claim some kudos for taking on the "infidel" Americans and their allies, Saddam probably hopes that an early land war could be one way of stopping the relentless bombing of the military infrastructure he has built up so carefully over the past ten years.

If Britain and the US want to tame the Iraqi war machine, peace would deny them the simplest way of doing so, writes Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

He would judge, probably correctly, that most of the allied bombers would have to be switched to ground attack in Kuwait during a land offensive.

One way or another, he has to find a way of preserving some of his chemical weapons production plants, his airbases, the remainder of his Scud launchers, his fighter-bombers, his best troops and any other unconventional weapons programmes that have survived the laser-guided bombs because of their location deep underground. Forcing a land war would seem the only option left.

taking up the ceasefire offer when the time is right. For the allies, at least for the two members - the United States and Britain - which are clearly determined to crush the Iraqi military machine once and for all, neither a ceasefire nor a coup in Baghdad would be welcome at this stage.

Washington presumably made the gesture to appease the Russians and in the expectation that Saddam would not accept it. The "danger" of a ceasefire being demanded by the United Nations Security Council was one of the main spurs for Britain to get

quickly to grips with the Argentine troops in the Falklands in 1982. The war cabinet wanted to defeat the Argentinians to demonstrate that dictators could not get away with seizing another country's territory.

The last thing the cabinet wanted was to have the British expeditionary force halted by international demands for peace. Just as President Galtieri had to be taught a lesson in 1982, so Saddam has to be defeated today.

However, there is an irony: for if the destruction of Iraq's war machine is the overarching objective, the air campaign, targeting Iraqi military facilities, is much more important than the liberation of Kuwait. The battle for Kuwait can wait until Washington and London are satisfied that Saddam's war machine has been crippled. If the land war

started tomorrow and was over quickly, allied strike aircraft could not return to bombing targets in Iraq. Once the Iraqis had surrendered in Kuwait, the war would be over. Equally, if Saddam were overthrown by rebel officers who then announced plans to withdraw from Kuwait, the allies would have to stop bombing, leaving the job "half-finished", as Tom King, the defence secretary, indicated a few days ago.

The allied air commanders still have much to do. Despite reassuring briefings from American and British commanders that Saddam's ability to fight a war is being gradually destroyed, there is still enough of the war machine left to pose a serious threat to the region, whoever is in power in Baghdad. Take the chemical weapons capability, for example.

Hundreds of raids have been mounted on the two principal sites, at Samarra and Salman Pak in central Iraq. Both have suffered considerable damage. Yet Iraq is said to have lost only half of its production capability.

Iraq's nuclear weapons development programme has supposedly been stopped by the destruction of the two known nuclear reactors. But does that mean the underground uranium-enrichment facility, which Kurdish opposition groups insist has been built in the north of Iraq, does not exist? Or, if it does, has it also been hit by allied bombers?

Dealing with Iraq's surviving chemical, biological and nuclear facilities through diplomacy and political pressure after the war would not be impossible, but more difficult and less effective than through precision bombing.

SUPERPOWER RELATIONS

A glimpse from the wings of backstage diplomatic theatre

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

WHEN Washington puts on its best political theatre, the stagehands are supposed to stay out of sight. That, at least, is the convention. The White House news managers worked hard throughout Tuesday to ensure that no scraps of the real world marred the reception for George Bush's highly-wrought State of the Union speech extolling the brutality of President Saddam Hussein, and asserting America's unique responsibility to defeat tyranny.

But just before the president began to speak - to a glittering audience of diplomats and congressmen and White House wives - reporters were given an unexpected glimpse of the messy diplomatic deal-making behind the scenes, of the concessions which may be necessary to keep an allied war effort in play but which fit uneasily with the fighting and speech-making of war itself.

A joint statement by James Baker, the secretary of state, and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, signed barely a mile away from the Capitol Hill gala, gave Saddam an unexpected chance to make "an

unequivocal commitment to withdraw from Kuwait" in exchange for an end to the Gulf war.

Although the statement also said that the commitment must be backed by "immediate concrete steps leading to full compliance with the security council resolutions", its tone contrasted with the president's declaratory aims of "driving" Saddam from Kuwait, of freeing the Iraqi people from the "brutal dictator" and creating a world without tyrants.

Senior White House officials, who were briefing the press about the State of the Union address, knew nothing of this offer. Yesterday one said that they were "blindsided" by the statement - a footballing metaphor for being caught off guard. There was clear irritation with the State Department, which was not dissipated by a mumbled remark by Mr Baker about the president saying "he's never mad at me". Pentagon officials, too, expressed anger.

Not only were the White House and Pentagon unaware of the "withdrawal" offer. Neither were the president's leading officials (nor the Israeli government, which

later made a complaint) know about the next and equally contentious part of the joint statement in which the two ministers offered to work together for peace between Arabs and Israelis after the war had ended. "Mutual US-Soviet efforts to promote Arab-Israeli peace and regional stability, in consultation with other parties in the region, will be greatly facilitated and enhanced," they said.

Mr Bessmertnykh, who was briefing the press alone about the statement (Mr Baker having to change his clothes for the Capitol Hill party) denied that this was "linkage" between the two issues. But, Israeli sources were immediately nervous. "I think this is an important statement because the two sides have not made a joint statement on this subject for many years," Mr Bessmertnykh said. There was no argument about that - only about what the statement meant and whether it might have been delivered in a different way.

Western diplomatic sources reacted cautiously. The British ambassador, Sir Antony Acland, said that the offer to end the war contained nothing new. It had always been understood that, if Saddam were to commit himself to withdrawal and follow that commitment with clear action, the position would be different, he said. The White House spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, also denied that there had been any change in American policy and offered talks with any ally who might be worried about the "misinterpretation".

Official reassurance could not hide, however, the importance of appearance and timing in the great world theatre whose stage now stretches from San Francisco Bay to Basra.



Mrs Schwarzkopf, applauded on Capitol Hill

Soviet fears led to call for end of war

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BEFORE leaving Washington, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, was party to a joint statement that will be greeted in Moscow as a small but significant consolation for the postponed summit.

A key sentence said that if Iraq gave an "unequivocal commitment to withdraw from Kuwait, then a cessation of hostilities would be possible". The two sides also believe, it went on, "that such a commitment must be backed by immediate, concrete steps leading to full compliance with the security council resolutions".

The first sentence, it is not hard to deduce, was demanded by a Soviet leadership increasingly worried by the course of the Gulf war. The second was a condition set by the United States, concerned that Moscow's moral support for the international alliance might be flagging. That such a transparent diplomatic formula was necessary at all suggests that the Soviet side gained the American concession only after some hard bargaining.

Circumstantial evidence supports such a view. The wording of the crucial sentence is almost identical to that of President Gorbachev's second and most recent message to the Iraqi leader, dispatched the day after the outbreak of war. An earlier message, delivered by the Soviet ambassador to the Iraqi foreign minister as the first bombs hit Baghdad, demanded an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait. The second, as reported by the Soviet foreign ministry, called on Iraq to declare its intention of leaving Kuwait. The difference is small, but could prove vital.

Further evidence of friction between the Soviet and American leaders can be divined from official Soviet statements. Answering a single written question at his press conference last week, President Gorbachev said that the present Soviet position of support for the alliance, might have to be reviewed if the war entered a second and more serious phase and the toll of American and Iraqi dead became too high.

Those sentiments were echoed by the Soviet foreign minister as he left for Washington on Saturday, except that he appeared to believe that the second phase had already arrived. Mr Bessmertnykh told journalists at Moscow's special airport for Soviet dignitaries that there was a growing threat

that "very grave damage" would be inflicted on Iraq. He indicated that he would want an assurance from Washington that the war was designed to liberate Kuwait, not to destroy Iraq. The latter, Moscow clearly believes, exceeds the remit of the United Nations resolution that sanctioned the use of force.

While Soviet concern about the course of the war and the growing number of casualties is undoubtedly genuine and is reflected in increasingly critical coverage from the official Soviet press, Moscow's desire to see an early cessation of hostilities might stem from an even greater concern about the aftermath of the war.

From the first days of the war, Soviet leaders seem to have been worried that too decisive an allied victory in the Gulf could have the effect of excluding the Soviet Union from the region altogether. If Iraq and the present Iraqi regime were to be "destroyed", then Moscow fears not only could American influence in the region be greatly enhanced, but Soviet protection and the Soviet position as self-appointed intermediary would be seen to be worthless.

Familiar tone to Saddam's ominous threats

By EFRAM KARSH

IN HIS first interview with a Western journalist since the war began, President Saddam Hussein told CNN correspondent Peter Arnett that Iraq had the capability to fix nuclear, chemical and biological warheads to its Scud missiles and vowed to escalate the conflict if he had to. "I pray to God I will not be forced to use these weapons," he said, "but I will not hesitate to do so should the need arise."

Even though it is not at all clear whether the officials have succeeded in marrying chemical warheads to their missiles and although Iraq still seems to be at a safe distance from acquiring a nuclear capability, these threats should not be taken lightly. Not only do they add up to a series of indications of Saddam's growing anxiety (such as the dispatch of Iraqi aircraft to Iran and the creation of the worst-ever oil-related ecological disaster), but they ring familiar and ominous bells from the Iran-Iraq war.

During that war Saddam indicated that he was willing to use chemical weapons whenever he deemed it necessary and that he had no moral qualms whatsoever about doing so. His only inhibitions in this regard were purely practical and were

related to the possible contribution of this means to his military position at the time. As long as he was not in a desperate position, Saddam proved himself a rational and circumspect actor: he used gas against Iranians only after continuous and persistent warnings and only at critical moments, when there was no other way to check Iranian offensives. The only time he resorted to an indiscriminate use of this weapon was the appalling gassing of his own Kurdish population, where the danger of retaliation was almost nil.

This pattern seems to be repeating itself in the second Gulf war. From the early stages of the confrontation Saddam had threatened to attack Israel in the event of a general conflagration, and he made good his promise.

Assuming that he has the capability to deliver chemical ordinance by his missiles (an assumption that has yet to be validated), his decision to forego this option thus far seems to have reflected his belief that conventional warheads would suffice to trigger an Israeli retaliation, without driving it into an excessive response.

He was fully justified in making this assumption. Prior to the war, Israel had

gone to great lengths to emphasise that any Iraqi attack would be responded in kind. Saddam had no reason to suspect that it would react differently in this case, particularly in view of Israel's long-standing propensity to retaliate against any attack.

Conversely, the fear of a harsh response to a chemical attack was well taken. The months preceding the war had been ripe with speculations in the Israeli and Western press regarding the possibility of an Israeli tactical retaliation against an Iraqi chemical attack.

As things turned out, Israel failed to play the role assigned to her by Saddam by exercising extraordinary restraint. This, in turn, might have driven the Iraqi leader to the conclusion that the only way to drag Israel into the conflict was to escalate his attacks to a higher qualitative level.

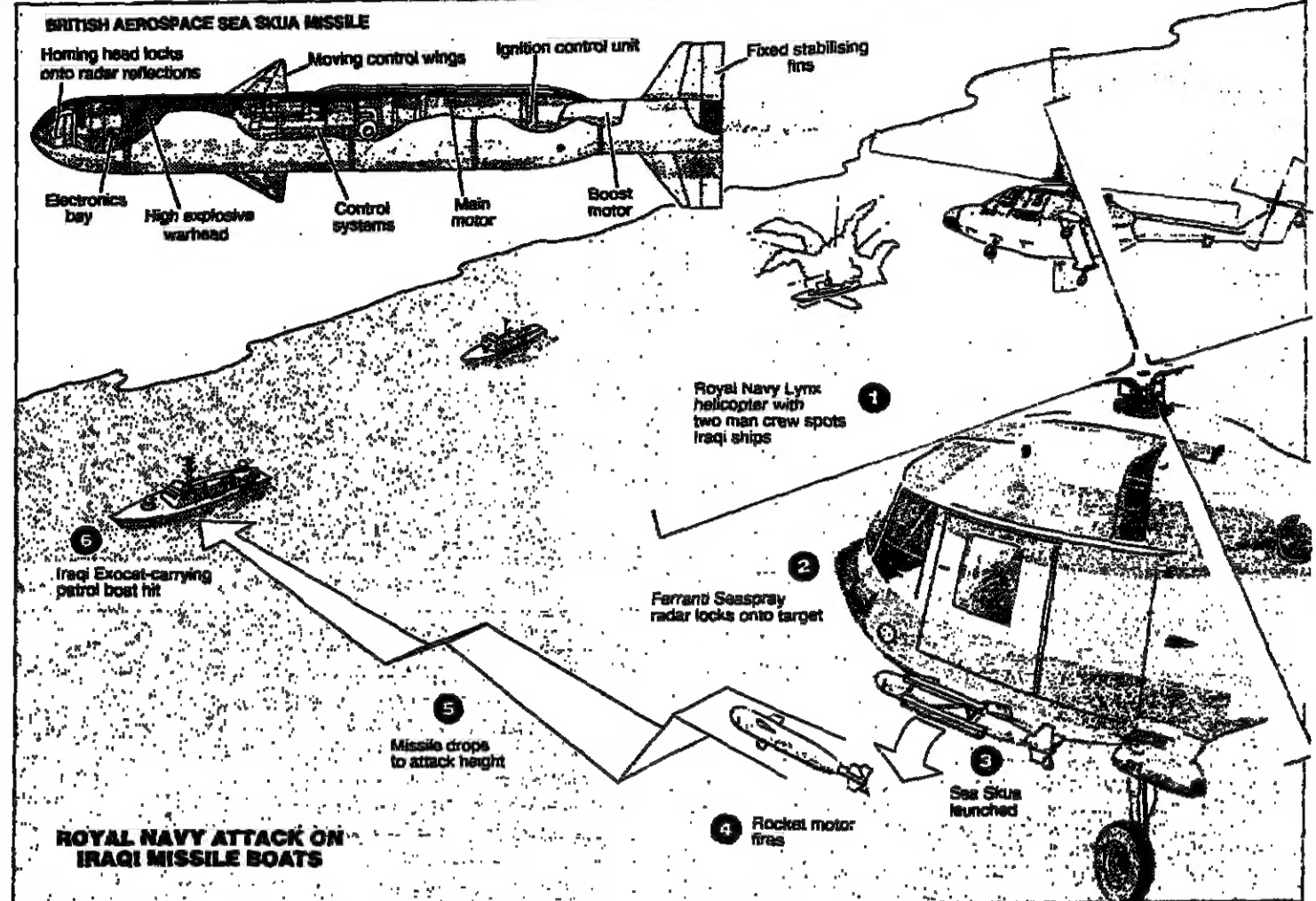
At the same time, Israel's restraint must have convinced Saddam that her response to a chemical attack might not be as harsh as originally feared. Hence, just as Iraq's resort to chemical attacks in the first Gulf war had been preceded by persistent cautions to the Iranians to desist from their military pressure, so Saddam's present warning to the coalition may well

foreshadow a chemical attack against Israel.

In drawing Israel into the war, Saddam not only hopes to fracture the coalition by putting its Arab members in an awkward position. He also seeks to drag the allies, who fear an Arab-Israeli conflagration, into a premature ground offensive in Kuwait. Notwithstanding his fiery rhetoric about "the mother of all battles", Saddam has been fully aware that his ability to sustain a protracted conflict is by no means limitless. He knows that such a conflict is bound to erode public and military morale and to render his hopes for the reconstruction of Iraq, on which his political survival will continue to hinge after the war, virtually impossible.

Conversely, an early ground encounter in Kuwait will enable him to give the coalition "a bloody nose" and to pull out of Kuwait with a large part of his armed forces in tact. This, in turn, will allow him to claim a victory, a claim which may be shared by many in the Arab world and will, consequently, enable him to survive after the war. Whether or not his strategy will work still remains to be seen.

The author is a lecturer at The Department of War Studies, Kings College, London.



WEAPONS

Textbook British success

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE attack by Royal Navy Lynx helicopters on the cream of the Iraqi navy could have come straight from a training textbook.

The Lynx helicopters carried by HMS Broome, Cardiff and Gloucester quickly picked up their targets on radar, then launched Sea Skua missiles exactly as the manuals describe - with total, all British, success.

The Lynx helicopter, which was flown by Prince Andrew when he served on HMS Broome, is designed and built by Westland and first flew in March 1971. It quickly established itself as the perfect helicopter for use on board ship, as well as on land, and 60 of the HAS Mark2 versions were delivered to the Royal Navy during the late 1970s.

The 49th 9in long helicopter has a crew of two and can carry a variety of weapons from the Sea Skua, which proved so successful yesterday, to air-launched torpedoes and 20mm Oerlikon cannon.

The real striking force of the Lynx, however, is its Sea Skua missiles, four of which can be carried in pylons extending out from the body of the aircraft. The Sea Skua is made by British Aerospace with parts coming from Stevenage and Bristol and final assembly in Rostock near Bolton.

WAR IN THE GULF DAY 14

ALLIED FORCES

SORTIES: More than 29,000 allied air missions flown since war began. **LOSSES:** Fewer than twenty troops from the US, Saudi Arabia and Qatar reported killed after the biggest ground battle of the Gulf war, when Iraqi troops launched attacks on the ground to occupy the abandoned Saudi border town of Khafji for a brief period. 24 aircraft have been lost so far: 18 in combat, including 11 American, 5 British, 1 Kuwaiti, 1 Italian. Non-combat losses: 3 American planes lost to undetermined causes, 3 American helicopters to non-hostile causes. 27 men are missing in action, including 14 Americans and 10 Britons.

CLAIMS: An Iraqi mechanised battalion crossed the Saudi border west of al Wafra on Tuesday night and yesterday a column of tanks attacked at the same point. Both incursions were beaten back with Iraqi losses to men and equipment by coalition air strikes and ground attacks. A second mechanised battalion, which entered Saudi Arabia north of Khafji just before midnight, was repulsed with heavy casualties by allied air strikes. In the fourth attack, after midnight, Iraqi infantry and tanks which crossed the border northwest of Khafji were attacked by allied air forces and forced to withdraw.

By the afternoon about 50 Iraqi troops still held parts of the town but they were completely surrounded by US Marines, Saudi and Qatari troops. A marine source said helicopters evacuated the US casualties from the area. Twenty Iraqi T55 tanks were destroyed and the Pentagon said allied losses were light while British government sources suggested that Iraqi casualties could run into hundreds dead. Allied forces were reported to have captured 23 Iraqi POWs.

Units from America's 1st Marine Division were most heavily involved

in the fighting. Seven Iraqi naval vessels reported to have been destroyed in the northern Gulf.

SCUD ATTACKS: Twelve people have died and 278 have been wounded in Israel since Iraq launched its first missile attack on Israel just after midnight on 17 January, an army spokesman said. Two people died under the rubble from the 27 missiles, the rest died of heart attacks or suffocated under their gas masks when the air raid sirens sounded.

IRAQI FORCES

CLAIMS: Iraq claimed that it had routed allied forces along a broad front inside Saudi Arabia when two columns of its troops launched a lightning attack on Khafji, 12 miles into the Saudi border, Iraq also said it launched missile attacks that set oil refineries on fire. Iraq's *Mother of Battles* Radio said that Saddam, the Revolutionary Command Council and military commanders planned the attack during a meeting last Saturday. Iraq said it had shot down three more allied planes and fired missiles. This brought to 213 the number of allied aircraft and missiles reported by Baghdad to have been knocked out in the Gulf war. Baghdad said allied planes had launched 127 raids on residential areas and military targets in Iraq since its previous communiqué on Tuesday.

ALLIED WAR AIMS

John Major said it was impossible to determine in detail what was meant by UN resolution 678, which authorised the "use of all necessary means" to free Kuwait. "We will need to judge that in the light of circumstances and judge our actions against the security council resolutions."

After Saddam's threat to use chemical and nuclear weapons, Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, said the Iraqi leader must be stopped.

Jordanian civilians 'killed by bombers'

Amman - Taher Masri, Jordan's foreign minister, said American warplanes bombed civilian traffic near the Jordan-Iraq border yesterday, killing four Jordanians and an Egyptian. He gave a warning that his country would respond if the attacks recurred.

American strikes also caused the destruction of nine oil tankers, he said. The attacks occurred in Iraq on the road linking Baghdad with the Jordanian capital. Jordan is officially neutral in the Gulf conflict.

"There have also been many injuries to evacuees from Baghdad and Kuwait," he said. He said that he had summoned the American ambassador, Roger Harrison, and relayed our strong condemnation over the US strikes against civilians and civilian targets near Jordanian territory.

Unicef help

Geneva - The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), in conjunction with the World Health Organisation, aims to get medicines for children to Iraq "with considerable dispatch". "We are working very hard to respond to a request from the Iraqi government dated January 14," Richard Reid, Unicef's director for the Middle East, said.

Ankara murder

Ankara - Gunmen murdered Hulusi Sayan, a recently retired senior Turkish army general, as his wife looked on. The assassination came hours after three bombs exploded in Istanbul. The blasts were believed to have been carried out by anti-Western groups opposed to the use of Turkish bases by American planes.

Terror suspects

Cairo - Egypt's interior minister, Abdel-Halim Moussa, said that 17 suspected terrorists being financed by Iraq had been arrested trying to enter Egypt since the Gulf confrontation began. He said that they belonged to eight "known terrorist organisations" which he did not identify.

Saddam takeaway

Auckland - Kentucky Fried Chicken's 17 Kuwaiti shops were dismantled by invading troops and moved to Baghdad, John Cranor, the corporation's president said. The Iraqi troops went in, ate all of the chicken, dismantled all of the equipment and sent it all to Baghdad. "I don't know what they are going to use it for, but now we have no restaurants in Kuwait," he said. The restaurants were owned by a local franchise operator. (AFP)

KHAJFI

Ghost town at centre of land battle was once a vacation spot

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

THERE could not have been a less distinguished spot for the location of the first land battle of the Gulf war than the ragged border and oil town of Khafji, sited amid featureless sand in the northeastern border of the Saudi desert.

Already abandoned by its 14,000 inhabitants who fled in panic, it resembles a scene from Nevile Shute's famous novel *On The Beach* when I visited it last week. There were large American limousines dumped along every road and only the occasional mongrel and goat was to be seen in the empty streets.

In peaceful times, the town was a main crossroads and vacation spot. But most residents evacuated the city at the opening salvo, including dozens of firemen who fled in lime-green fire engines that now sit at a highway gas stop about 60 miles to the south. After the August 2 invasion of Kuwait, thousands of Kuwaitis, including most of the emirate's government, fled south through Khafji into Saudi Arabia in long lines of Mercedes and BMWs.

Even before yesterday's fighting erupted in earnest, it had been the scene of sporadic exchanges between the allies and Iraqi forces with roads and buildings pockmarked by falling shells and rockets.

Inside the houses, furniture and household possessions had been left behind by the inhabitants who had fled south. Hundreds of cars and commercial vehicles had been driven and parked at a desert lot beside the highway about 31 miles to the south.

An oil storage tank belonging to the Arabian Oil Company, a Saudi-Japanese joint venture, was hit in the early days of the war by

Iraqi shells, leaving a plume of dirty black smoke rising hundreds of feet over Khafji and fouling the air. The costly water desalination plant, one of only four along the Saudi east coast, had also been put out of action. More recent visitors have found that blobs of oil now clog a concrete culvert leading to the plant.

A slick from the damaged oil plant, washed up on to nearby beaches, added to the impression of devastation. The beaches, some of which are believed to have recently mined were once a favourite picnic spot for local residents.

Even after the exodus, traffic lights still continued to blink. Within days of the population taking the prudent decision to depart, gardens in the more affluent of the cross-crossing streets have begun to wilt.

A sign in Arabic on a great green archway stated forlornly: "The citizens of al-Khafji welcome all visitors." But apart from the occasional Saudi patrol, the only ones there were some intrepid French photographers and a British television crew, equipped with tin helmets camping out in the otherwise deserted Khafji Beach Hotel.

Only days before yesterday's battle began, the foreign journalists had been removed by the Saudi authorities, who declared the town a closed military zone. There were reports that Iraqi soldiers were steaming in under cover of darkness to find food in the abandoned houses.

Some shops had been boarded over, but others were still stocked with more affluent products than to be found in most other parts of the Arab world. The number of

cars left in the open, some slewed at odd angles, bore silent witness to the speed with which the town had been abandoned.

Many of its buildings were single-storey and none were equipped with shelters which could have provided cover from Iraqi bombing. According to friends of families, who have now fled mostly to stay with relatives in other parts of Saudi Arabia, the main fear was that the town would be targeted for a chemical attack by the Iraqis.

The frontline positions were guarded by troops from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, with the US Marines dug in much further back in the desert — but not in as great a number as are to be found along some other forward ally positions.

Some of the Saudi soldiers looked frightened at the responsibility suddenly thrust on them for guarding an area which would immediately attract the attention of Iraqi gunners — some of whom were quickly put out of action by deadly American air strikes.

One young soldier, the beginning of a moustache on his upper lip, appeared no older than 18. When we asked him when the land war would begin, he responded with military precision well beyond his years: "Soon."

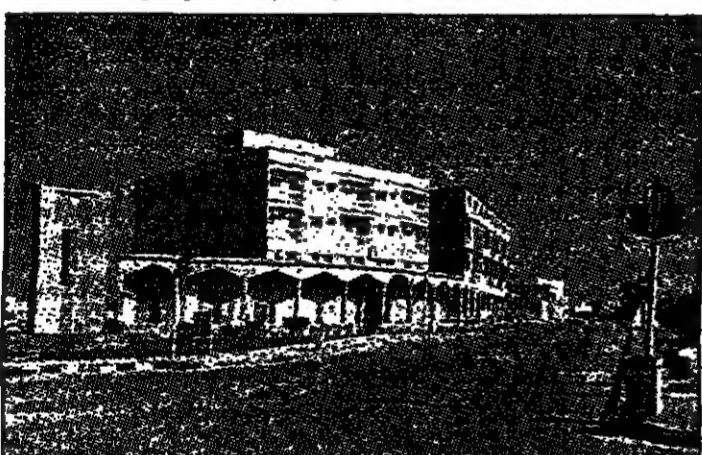
Signposts of the one main road running through the town showed it was only 83 miles from Kuwait City. Most allied predictions had pointed to land battles beginning further to the west.

Errie enough during daylight hours, the town became more nightmarish as darkness fell and the occasional, distant thud of explosions could be heard from allied bombing missions against Iraqi targets further to the north.

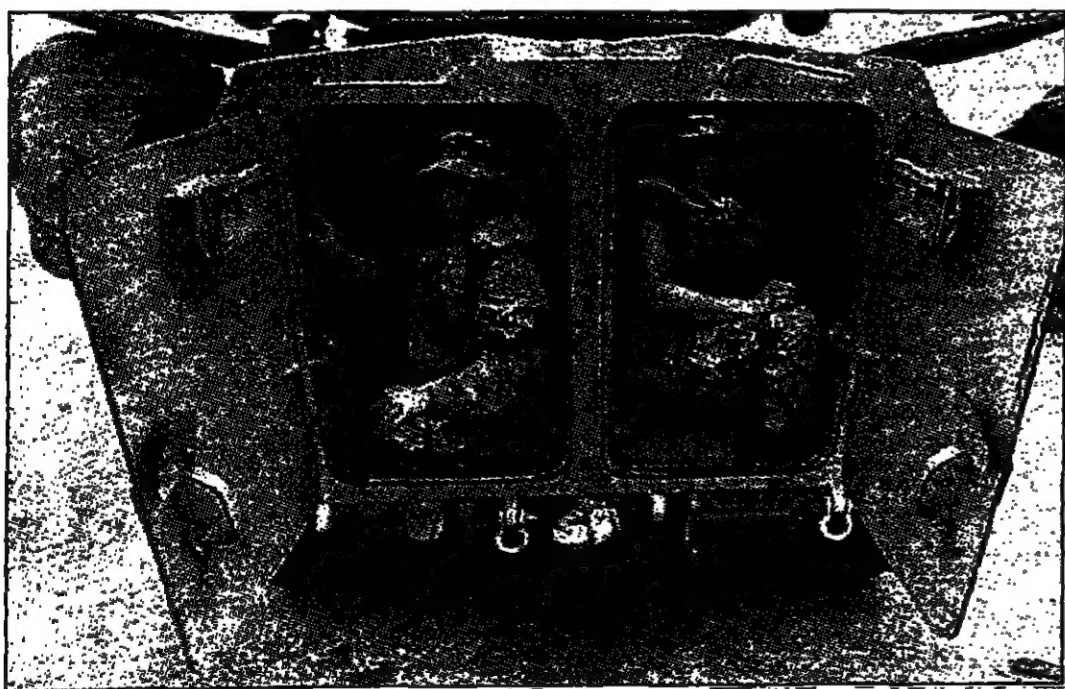
The ghost town which yesterday became a battlefield already had the stench of decay from rotting rubbish piles left uncollected. Subsequent visitors told how that stench had in its turn been overtaken by the stench of oil from the two-mile-long oil slick.

By all accounts of the serious fighting in the Khafji streets yesterday, the bodies of soldiers will by now have joined those of the dead birds killed by the oil. One colleague, who visited the town recently after evading Saudi roadblocks set up to keep out journalists, said on his return: "It did not seem the sort of place that anyone in their right mind could think worth dying for."

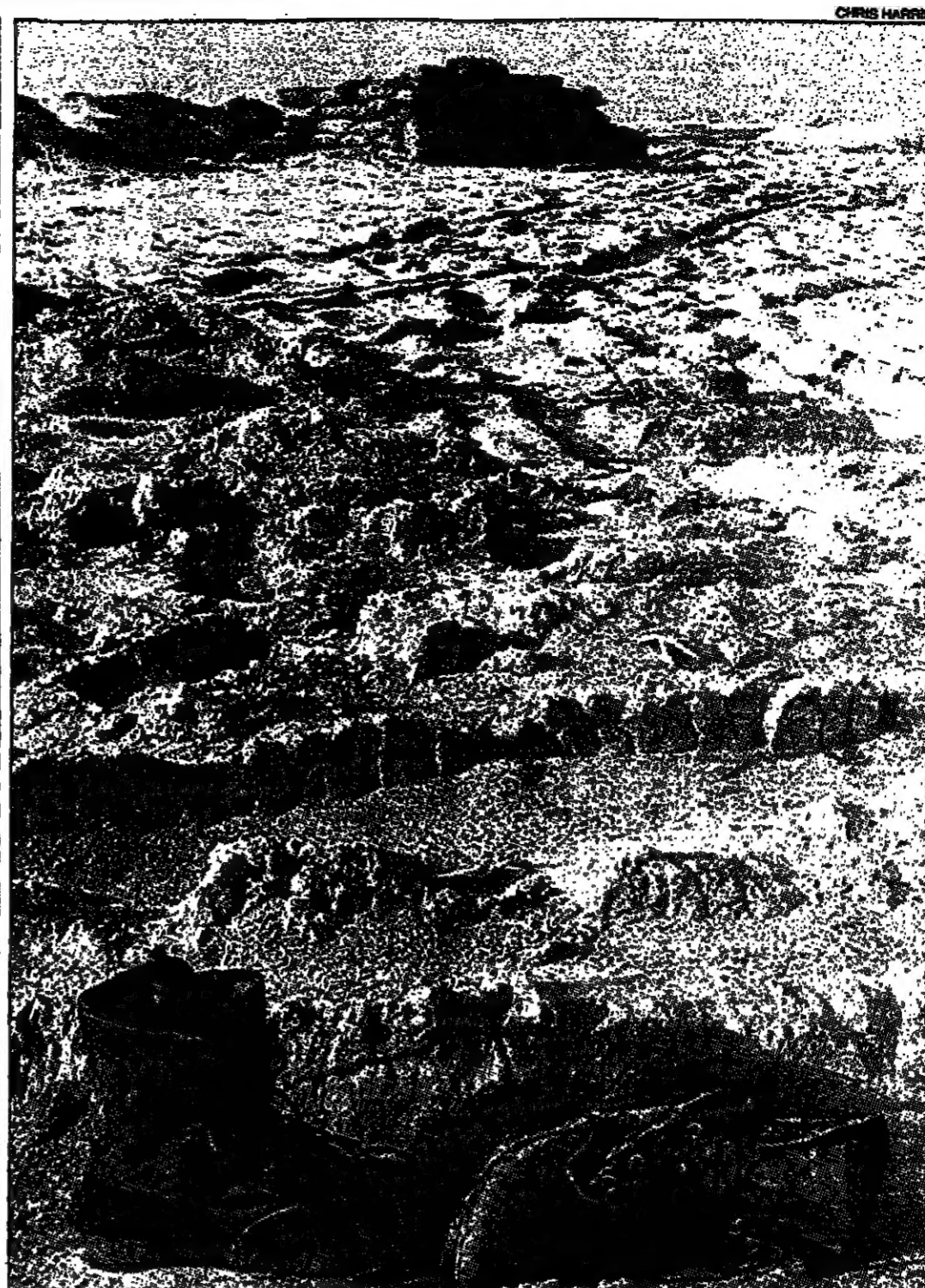
(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions.)



Battle ground: the deserted town of Khafji, in Saudi Arabia, where allied forces and an Iraqi patrol fought yesterday



Road to war: US marines in the back of an armoured personnel carrier heading towards the front as the first significant ground battle of the war was being fought around Khafji



Last property: a Saudi Arabian gun outpost near Khafji, in the northeastern Saudi desert, taken was abandoned when it came under artillery fire. In the scramble to take cover, a soldier left his boots behind. The town, which was evacuated several days ago, had already been the scene of sporadic exchanges between the two sides.

ISRAEL

Hundreds held by security forces

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

WHILE international attention is focused on war in the Gulf, Israeli security forces are clamping down on the intifada. Diplomats and civil rights activists said yesterday that hundreds of Palestinians had been detained, the most prominent being Sari Nusseibeh, a leading intellectual.

Diplomats said that the action could prove counter-productive, especially since the charge against Mr Nusseibeh, of spying for Iraq, "lacked credibility".

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was disturbed to hear of Mr Nusseibeh's detention. "If the Israeli authorities have evidence to support the accusations against him, he should be brought to trial," a spokesman said.

Police arrested Mr Nusseibeh at his home early yesterday. A police statement said Mr Nusseibeh, a lecturer in philosophy at Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank, had been placed under administrative detention for six months — which can be extended to a year — because of "his activity in collecting security-related information for Iraqi intelligence, especially in the recent period following missile attacks on the centre of Israel".

Mr Nusseibeh was educated at Oxford, and has an English wife. The police statement accused him of serving as a channel for information supplied to the PLO, which in turn had relayed it to Iraq. His wife, Lucy, described the accusation as "vicious and ridiculous", and said that even if he had wished to supply such information he could not have done so because the West Bank has been under continuous curfew for two weeks.

Mr Nusseibeh is seen as the kind of local leader who might have taken part in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. But Israelis were incensed by an article he published a week ago in the Arabic daily *al-Fajr*, suggesting that President Saddam Hussein was an Arab hero for holding out for so long.

(This dispatch is subject to Israeli military reporting restrictions)

WAR AT SEA

Crew stay on alert for chemical attack

FROM JAMIE DETTMER ON BOARD HMS LONDON

THE Royal Marine colour sergeant had no hesitation when asked how his 16 men on HMS London would take chemical attack. "In their stride," he said.

It would be unwise to argue with the stocky Colour Sergeant Kevin Brennan, a Falklands veteran who has also seen service in the IRA stronghold of South Armagh. However, he was tolerant of further questioning and explained that whatever happened in a battle his marines would continue to operate the close-range guns on the ship's decks. They would do so despite being outside the sanctuary of the citadel, the chemical and nuclear resistant pressurised air section of the vessel.

"They'll be in their NBC suits and will fire away with their weapons," he said. "After a while they'll go inside, change into fresh suits, and go out again." Others on the London may have less confidence than Sgt Brennan about how they will react in a full-scale battle, but they hide their anxieties well. One officer admitted that for a few minutes after action stations were called at the beginning of the war his hands shook so much that he could not hold a pen.

The T22 frigate is now very much into a routine. The defence watches, six hours on and six hours off for each member of the crew, allow the ship to remain on a high level of alert while at the same time providing officers and ratings with a chance to relax. But even when they are off duty, they can hardly forget the war. Every-

one on board has to wear two layers of constricting anti-flash clothing. The first layer consists of number eights or action working dress, a heavy cotton blue shirt and trousers which have been treated with a flame resistant chemical. The outside layer is even heavier: a thick white cotton overall.

The ship's company have to wear number eights in bed as well. A respirator lifebelt and gloves are carried at all times. Every eight hours the ship's public address system reminds the men to take "one nap now". It is not an invitation to sleep but a prompt for the crew to take one of their pre-treatment anti-nerve gas pills. These tablets have provoked more light-hearted concern than anything else. Made of bromide they have given rise to many public school-style jokes about sexual potency.

On the outbreak of hostilities there was some confusion about how often the pills should be taken. Initially, the men were told to take one four hours after their first tablet, only to be told as they were in the process of swallowing to forget the order.

Meanwhile, the men who do not have access to the ship's ops room, nicknamed the Gloom Room, are kept informed about the progress of the war by regular streps, situation reports, relayed over the Tannoy system.

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions.)

FRONT-LINE NOTEBOOK by Nicholas Watt

Insults on the beach hotel telephone

The first hint of a ground battle in the Gulf came when a voice over the telephone at the Khafji Beach Hotel said: "We are Iraqi soldiers." He shouted that they were: "Arabs... Arabism... Saddam Hussein, Arabism," and then insulted Egypt.

The Khafji Beach Hotel is about six miles from the border checkpoint. People at the hotel have often given first hand information about the scene at the border. But this time there was no slow drawl of the Saudi dialect. This was an energetic voice, indifferent to what was being asked.

"What fire, what fire, we don't see anything," one man shouted. "See you in Jerusalem," his comrade said. The line went dead.

As planes thunder over Kuwait a potent symbol of resistance to the Iraqi invasion is the Voice of Kuwait which broadcasts 21 hours a day from Saudi Arabia.

In a small makeshift station, filled with dated equipment, 38 former announcers and writers from Kuwait television and radio broadcast news and advice to their fellow-countrymen on

how to take cover during bombing raids. "It is a sign we are still a country," Arwa Saleh, a Kuwaiti based in Saudi Arabia, said. Hutham al-Sabah, an exiled member of Kuwait's royal family said: "For many of us, the radio station is all we have left."

The station began broadcasting hours after the Iraqi invasion on August 2 when a few journalists commandeered a mobile transmitter and then broadcast for three days before fleeing to Saudi Arabia.

Good of George knows how to touch the hearts of his troops in the Gulf and he struck just the right note in his State of the Union address. It was 5.00am Gulf time yesterday when President Bush stood before Congress, but thanks to the latest satellite television links the forces could gather in tents to watch him.

When he praised US forces as "truly America's finest", Congress responded with a minute-long standing ovation. Afterwards 24-year-old Sergeant William Resides, from the First Tactical Fighter Wing mobile hospital unit, declared: "You see a bunch of men in suits stand and clap for you like that, it gives

you a sense of pride. It brings a tear to your eye. It wrenches your heart."

However, before President Bush gets too excited by the reaction to his speech, even his loyal troops questioned his approach on domestic issues. Many gave him just average



marks for his comments on the economy, education and civil rights. Soldiers at the front have been bundling up like mummies in layers of long-johns, sweaters and hooded parkas to fend off the bitterly cold and wet weather.

The only protection many have against the freezing temperatures and wind are their

fighting holes and sandbag covers. Soldiers said that when their sleeping bags became soaked it was like spending the night in a bucket of iced water until an officer came to the rescue.

Sergeant Aubrey Butts, of the 82nd Airborne Division, advised his fellow sufferers to "put on everything you got. Hunker down in the holes. Sleep underground. Live like moles. This is the first time you ain't got to tell anybody to dig".

After screwing a small fuse into a 500-pound bomb at a desert airbase, Sham Rice, US Air Force, took a moment to reflect about what she was doing. "God says: 'Thou shalt not murder.' I try to live my life by God's word. But when I make bombs I feel like I'm killing for the right of my people, my country, not for my own self-pride." Corporal Matthew Speas, aged 27, said: "It's a strange feeling, especially since we have heard that the guys we are shooting at may include old men and children. But it's us or them and this is what we get paid to do."

(Some of these items are from pool dispatches subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

Saturday Review

Black, white and true blue

A young man in possession of a great deal of ambition, must be in want of a safe Tory seat. But what if he is black? Kate Muir meets John Taylor, Cheltenham Tory candidate

Money: fiction in another form

Writer Malcolm Bradbury, not enamoured of the ecu, mourns shrunken notes, forgotten sixpenny bits and a namesake's promise to pay the bearer

If music be the food of hype...

The Mozart anniversary has produced, among other things, a cheese, a ski and a frisbee. Don't suggest the perfume, they've already thought of that

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AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

President's top man with whom people can identify

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

RICHARD Cheney, the US defence secretary, is the middle man of the Washington trio controlling Operation Desert Storm. His subordinate, General Colin Powell, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, offers the blood-curdling rhetoric of "cut it off and kill it". His superior, President Bush, prefers to "dampen euphoria".

Mr Cheney is the one who warns in basic language that a day's bombing of Iraq cannot be scored "like a track meet or a basketball game"; he combines the office of a Dr Strangelove with the common touch.

The characters of all three military leaders have come under new scrutiny since the war with Iraq loomed. In the days running up to the United Nations deadline, Mr Cheney was analysed to dust.

It took only two days of war for General Powell to become a cliché of Washington conversation. "If I hear the words 'black Eisenhower' one more time, I'll scream," one congressional aide commented.

Mr Cheney has been the last of the three to get the big media treatment. Since his days in the Ford administration as the youngest White House chief of staff, he has always liked to hover just outside the limelight. Now that he is a daily fixture on the front pages, his friends say that he is still maintaining political reserves to last a long struggle.

His early career is a classic American political story. He was born 50 years ago in Nebraska, moved in his teens to Wyoming where he went to college (after failing at Yale), and moved in his twenties to Washington where he has thrived virtually ever since.

In 1968 he joined the bandwagon of a rising star-about-town, Donald Rumsfeld. President Nixon had asked Mr Rumsfeld, the representative of Illinois, to head the late Office of Economic Opportunity, and he gave Mr Cheney a job.

The two stayed together with only a short break until Mr Rumsfeld, then White House chief of staff, became President Ford's defence secretary. The chief of staff job was now in the hands of the 34-year-old who preferred the suburbs and the shadows to the bright glare of power. His secret service codename was "backseat".

When Gerald Ford lost the 1976 election, Mr Cheney decided to stand for office in his own right. Two years later, despite a heart attack, he won Wyoming's single seat in the House of Representatives. His electoral hand-out echoed the question once asked in jest at the White House: "Who is Dick Cheney?" The answer was "a home town boy made good", a claim which went down well.

By then he had a wife, who was a home town girl made good. Lynne

Cheney is a novelist, journalist and chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a post from which she campaigns for traditional values in education. The couple wrote a book together, *Kings Of the Hill*, which glorified the great figures of the House of Representatives.

He might by now have been merely the second most senior Republican in the Democratic-dominated House if former Senator John Tower, President Bush's first choice to lead the Pentagon, had not been rejected by his peers, for assorted reasons. The quiet clean-living Mr Cheney, backed by his friend James Baker, the secretary of state, and by his former Ford administration colleague Brent Scowcroft, ("Red Baron" when Mr Cheney was "backseat"), was the immediate choice for the job.

In the next two years Mr Cheney proved himself tougher and more visible than his past seemed to suggest. He was openly sceptical about President Gorbachev's reform hopes when only Dan Quayle, the vice-president, was there to keep him company. He reprimanded one air force chief of staff for lobbying Congress and, last September, fired another, General Michael Dugan, for talking too much about air war tactics and the threat to target President Saddam Hussein's missiles. He has been Mr Bush's personal emissary to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The defence secretary, despite two further heart attacks and surgery since 1978, is still occasionally talked of for higher elective office. He is conservative, but not rancorously so, a man of intellect who often hides it, a man whose apparently flawless family life plays well in national politics. Of all the president's men he is the one with whom most Americans can identify the most. If the casualty figures start to rise, it is in his capability to inspire trust at home.



Cheney combines military office with the common touch



Golden oldies: Dame Vera Lynn singing with members of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards at a London recording studio yesterday. They recorded new versions of war-time favourites including *We'll Meet Again* and *White Cliffs of Dover* and all the sale proceeds will go to the Gulf Trust, which is raising money for the troops

FRANCE

Socialist Left will close ranks

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

AS JEAN-PIERRE Chevènement slipped out of the defence ministry yesterday, using the back door to avoid photographers, right-wing commentators dismissed his arguments in his letter of resignation as defence minister to President Mitterrand.

M Chevènement wrote that "the logic of war threatens to distance us each day". He had "a certain idea of the republic" and could not remain at the post.

The right-wing *Le Figaro* newspaper, welcoming the departure of the maverick Socialist yesterday, said: "This is false. By trying to neutralise the conventional and chemical strike force of Saddam Hussein, the coalition is only applying to the letter the resolution of the United Nations."

Most commentators agreed that the appointment as defence minister of Pierre Joxe, an austere disciplinarian in his years as interior minister, would strengthen France's relations with its allies.

However, with France's small yet lively peace movement against "an American war" becoming more organised each week, there is a worry that M Chevènement and his followers in the Socialist Party will add their support. France's solidarity with the allies will also be under pressure as casualties start mounting.

But M Chevènement's supporters said that they would accept party discipline and not oppose the government until after the war. Latest opinion polls show that less than 20 per cent of those asked oppose the involvement of France's 10,000 troops.

Leading article, page 13

GERMANY

Kohl to give Patriot missile launchers and tanks to Israel

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY is ready to offer yet more money to countries fighting against President Saddam Hussein, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, told the Bundestag yesterday.

In a comprehensive review of his country's responsibilities to help evict Iraq from Kuwait and establish a new Middle East peace agreement, he promised to supply Israel with defence equipment, to tighten laws against illegal arms exports and to seek ways of altering the constitution to allow German troops to play a worldwide role under the United Nations flag. The chancellor also

promised that Germany would be ready to provide considerable financial help in the region once there was a Middle East peace settlement "including the right of Palestinians to self-determination and of Israel to exist within secure borders".

The chancellor made it clear that Britain can now expect to receive a substantial German contribution towards the cost of fighting the war. Last night he met Douglas Hurd in Bonn to discuss the Gulf conflict. The foreign secretary had a separate meeting with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his

opposite number, when the two reviewed how Germany could best help supply some of Britain's military needs. Money and equipment were under discussion.

The government announced it was sending Israel eight Patriot anti-aircraft rocket launchers. German Patriots are not designed for shooting down Scud missiles but they will help to improve Israel's air defence. Israel is also getting eight Fuchs tanks, specially designed for tracking chemical weapons as well as other equipment such as gas masks and filters. Israel has also asked for two U-boats to be built and financed by Germany. This request has yet to be cleared but if approved they would not be ready for delivery until the middle of the decade.

From his speech it was obvious that the chancellor had been stung by worldwide criticism of Germany's reaction to the Gulf conflict. At the same time he showed he understood that at least some criticism had been justified. Unification meant Germans must be ready to take up a greater share of responsibility in the world, he said. "There is no cosy little niche in world politics for us Germans and Germany cannot flee from its responsibility. We want to make our contribution to a world of peace, freedom and justice."

Freedom and responsibility were inextricably intertwined, he said. It was a fatal mistake to think people could shut their eyes to new dangers for peace and freedom. Israel along with the countries with armies fighting against "the dictator Saddam Hussein" would receive German help so that UN resolutions could be enforced and Kuwait freed.

The chancellor also said he was going to try to change the Basic Law so that German troops could be deployed as part of a UN force.

ITALY

Admiral's views add to doubts on conflict

FROM JANET STOBART IN ROME

ITALY's war effort in the Gulf met its first sign of mutiny yesterday when the country's chief naval commander in the region said that he felt the war could have been avoided.

Famiglia Cristiana, a widely read conservative magazine, published a lengthy interview with Admiral Mario Baraccchia in which he was quoted as saying that the war "could have been avoided, with a little wisdom. In my opinion we could have reached a peaceful solution". He said sanctions should have been given more time to work.

His statement caused tumult yesterday in ministerial and military circles as well as in parliament. Virgilio Rognoni, the defence minister, expressed surprise at the admiral's views, saying he felt the interview was "the

result of a misunderstanding". Later, Admiral Baraccchia claimed his words had been misconstrued. However, the interview led to demands for his resignation by parties in the government coalition. Pacifists in the opposition were heartened.

"Finally, an admiral tells the truth," said Luciano Castellini, an independent left-wing MP. "Baraccchia is only saying what we have always said." Vociferous calls for an end to the war are being made by left-wing groups, students and the Church. Big peace marches have been held throughout Italy.

Not the least of the pacifists is the Pope, who used his Wednesday public audience again yesterday as a platform for further appeals. "To the parties in conflict," he said, "I send requests for peace and solidarity."

Anti-war activists demand 'a just peace'

London - Anti-war campaigners yesterday issued 15 demands for "a just peace" in the Gulf and claimed the initial war euphoria was wearing off as more people questioned the reasons behind the hostilities (Ray Clancy writes).

The demands from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament include an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of allied troops as well as a Middle East peace conference. "If we are to avoid future Gulf wars we need a policy which genuinely addresses political, economic and social reform," said Marjorie Thompson of CND.

Other demands are for the creation of a United Nations peacekeeping force with significant Arab participation, the setting up of a UN relief fund to help refugees and the rebuilding of communities destroyed by the war, and a ban on all exports of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. A new rights monitoring agency is also suggested.

Letters, page 13

Pakistani move

Islamabad - Three months after his election victory, Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, is isolated over the Gulf war. He supported Saudi Arabia but finds almost everyone else backs Iraq. He told the Iraqi ambassador he was willing to promote a peace initiative among Islamic nations. (Reuter)

Kaifu heckled

Tokyo - Toshiki Kaifu, the embattled prime minister, ducked opposition heckling and shoes as he defended Japan's pledge of \$9 billion (£4.5 billion) for the allied forces in the Gulf. Two anti-war protesters threw tennis shoes but missed. The outburst underlined growing public outrage at the latest Gulf aid plan. (Reuter)

Seoul's pledge

Seoul - South Korea decided yesterday to provide an additional \$280 million (£143 million) to help the American-led multinational forces fighting Iraq, officials said. Five C130 military transport planes and 150 support personnel were also promised. This raised South Korea's contribution to \$500 million. (AP)

Curse on Saddam

Jerusalem - Ultra-Orthodox Jews have resorted to their ultimate weapon against President Saddam Hussein. The Eda Haredit sect is planning to lay a mortal curse on the Iraqi leader during a mystical ceremony called *pulsa de nura* (dash of fire, in Aramaic). It has had to be put off, however, until the sect is sure of the name of Saddam's mother. (AFP)

Playground poll finds little racial backlash over conflict

A STRAW poll on the effects of the Gulf war on schools and pupils suggests that while children are concerned about the human cost, there is little evidence of increased racial tension in playgrounds.

Yesterday, the National Union of Teachers issued guidelines for its members after the Commission for Racial Equality reported increased playground violence against pupils from minority groups. The commission also claimed that many children were not being given a balanced account of the conflict.

The Times, however, found little evidence to support the accusations of the commission. Children themselves were interested in the war but said they bore no animosity towards their ethnic minority school friends.

Lucy, aged 13, who attends a school in Chiswick, said she was concerned about the human cost. "It is terrible that so many people are dying. I saw a picture of an Israeli woman on the television and all her living room was gone. I do not want anything like that to happen in Britain."

A girl, aged eight, at an expensive west London preparatory school said a pupil, whose stepbrother was serving in the Gulf, had read out a letter from him at the assembly. "The boys play games about the war. Half the boys have to be Kuwait and half of them Iraq and they rush at each other and throw things like ping pong balls with bomb markings on," she said.

Some children have made an extra effort to find out more about the conflict. Pupils, aged

As pupils declare that racism is the last thing on their minds, teachers are issued with guidelines on how to cope with playground tension, John O'Leary and Peter Victor write

10 and 11, of Ashville College Junior School in Harrogate, West Yorkshire, have sent letters to the 250-strong crew of HMS Brazen in the Gulf. Gareth Lishman, who has two cousins in the Gulf, assured Commander James Rapp, the ship's captain: "Back home in England everybody is praying for you. I bet all you men out there are as white as this sheet of paper because I know if I were out there I would be even more afraid than you."

Ian Beer, the headmaster of Harrow school in northwest London, said he had not per-

ceived any racial attacks related to the Gulf war. "Some of the boys live or have relations in the area and some of the old boys are now commanding officers with the forces out there." Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere, the British Forces commander in the Middle East, is an old boy, as are King Hussein of Jordan and Crown Prince Hassan.

Jewish school children, concerned about relatives in Israel, are suffering different pressures. John Lazarus, deputy head of the Jewish Prep School in London, said: "Everyone feels very in-

volved. The younger children are terribly worried and some of them get a bit fearful. They want to talk it out in class, which we encourage. The older ones are more political. Everybody has family or friends there and some have soldiers in the family."

Tower Hamlets council, which has a large Asian population, would only say that its education officers were considering the production of an action pack offering guidance to teachers and children. One primary school teacher said the majority of the children in her class, aged five and six, are Muslim Bengalis, and many of their parents backed President Saddam Hussein. She said: "When I tell them my perspective they say that their fathers told them something different."



War effort: pupils writing to crew of HMS Brazen

Tonight, Young Musician of the Year opens with an encore.

On BBC-2 at 6.40pm, last year's winner Nicola Loud and brass section finalist Jeremy Pooley return to play again.



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We face slowdown but not prolonged slump, Lilley insists

By PETER MULLIGAN

TRADE & INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY faces a severe slowdown in demand, Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, told the Commons yesterday, but he discounted the view that the economy is set to spiral into a prolonged slump.

During a Labour-inspired debate on the recession in industry, he said that the real disease was inflation and its cure must inevitably involve a period of slower growth and demand. He acknowledged that that would be painful.

He said, however, that the economy was healthier now than it had faced previous recessions and would continue to drive once inflation was curbed. Mr Lilley told MPs: "The

difference between this slowdown and its predecessors is that this time manufacturing has suffered less and the regions and Scotland have suffered less."

On this occasion, the slowdown in the economy had been in the most heavily borrowed areas which he cited as the housing market, the South-East and service industries.

Referring to a "new-found resilience in manufacturing industry", he said that productivity was up. Because manufacturing industry was more competitive and flexible, it was increasingly able to replace weak home demand by finding increased export orders abroad.

He said that the severity of the slowdown in demand meant that price inflation would be curbed more sharply than would otherwise be the case.

Once inflation had slowed, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be able to cut interest rates; when that was done, non-inflationary growth would resume.

The reduction of the rate of inflation would provide the economy with a stimulus while the government reforms to the labour market, coupled with a pegged exchange rate, would result in a more rapid response to the slowdown in pay costs.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, opening the debate, said that the recession was unique to Britain and was "designed, fashioned and made in Downing Street".

He called for an immediate cut in interest rates, a Budget for investment in industry, improvements in training and technology and help for regional economic development.

He said: "Ministers told us there was an economic miracle but there was not one. Now they insist on telling us in much of the country there is no recession. But we know there is."

"How can we trust them with the future when they deny prob-

lems of the present and of the past?"

The government had set out to eliminate assistance to industry but had eliminated much of the industry as well, he said. No other Western European country was losing so many jobs so quickly.

Manufacturing employment was about to fall below five million for the first time this century. For thousands of factories and companies, the downturn was a step on the road to closure.

He said that John Major, the prime minister, Norman Lamont, the chancellor and Mr Lilley had been responsible for economic policy in the run-up to the tax-cutting Budget of Nigel Lawson.

He asked: "Did this gang of three have no influence at all? Are they entirely blameless of what went wrong?"

Mr Brown added: "They denied there was a recession and there is. They said it was not severe and it is. They claimed it was happening elsewhere and it is not."

"Try as they might to blame external events, try as they might to find scapegoats, the truth is they cannot blame anybody but themselves."



Waldegrave: preventive medicine is one of his priorities

GP budget plan goes on back burner

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH SERVICE

THE health secretary, William Waldegrave, has decided to soft pedal the government's plans for family doctors to manage their own budgets outside health authority control.

His move, which will be welcomed by the profession's leaders, marks a retreat from the policy put forward by Kenneth Clarke, his predecessor and the architect of the fund-holding scheme.

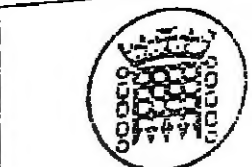
In an article before being switched to the education department last November, Mr Clarke looked forward to fund-holding expanding year by year as more doctors drew up their own contracts to buy hospital care on behalf of their patients.

However, in an interview with *The Times*, Mr Waldegrave made clear that his ambitions for the scheme, which will be pioneered in April by about 300 practices, are more modest.

The health secretary said that he regarded the scheme as a safety valve. He suggested that it should be required only where district health authorities ignored the wishes of their GPs about where their patients should be referred for hospital treatment.

The health secretary said: "GP fund-holding is a very important safety valve. If there is not close enough consultation between GPs and districts, the GPs can take some of the money and that will very sharply remind the districts that they cannot take the GPs for granted."

Mr Waldegrave has made preventive medicine one of his top priorities. He attaches great importance to a green paper on the subject to be published soon. He wants to set strategic targets for the health service, for instance reducing deaths from the main killers such as heart disease. He believes that the health reforms are an opportunity for such an initiative because they will enable him to steer resources to hospitals "capable of delivering the goods".



Let nurses prescribe, MP asks House

A Conservative MP's bill to allow nurses to write some prescriptions was introduced.

Its sponsor, Dudley Fishburn (Kensington), said that thousands of patients received care at home from the country's 28,000 community nurses. Yet those nurses could not write prescriptions although they were familiar with the medicines needed.

Sewage hope

The government hopes to comply with the EC directive banning the discharge of raw sewage into the sea by 1995. David Tripper, the environment minister, said in the Commons. It was committed to compliance by 1997, but he believed that the objective could be achieved earlier.

Pollution study

David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, has ordered a study of pollution near a waste disposal plant after the discovery of contaminated duck eggs on a farm near by. Torfaen council officials found polychlorinated biphenyls in the eggs near the Rechem International plant at Pontypool, Gwent.

Griffiths job

Lord Griffiths, head of the Downing Street policy unit under Margaret Thatcher, was appointed yesterday chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies, one of the most influential Tory think tanks.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; prime minister. Ministerial and Other Pensions and Salaries bill, second reading. Lords (3): Debate on Law Commission report, *The Ground for Divorce*.

Seek US advice, ex-addict says

By JOHN WINDER

ADDICTION

A CONSERVATIVE peer whose drug addiction was treated successfully in Minnesota after all treatment in Britain had failed said during a Lords debate yesterday that the health department should send a team to America to study methods of treatment.

Lord Macclesfield, who is chairman of the addiction recovery foundation, said that the National Health Service was the biggest supplier of addictive drugs in the world.

His life had been governed for years by an overpowering addiction for heroin, cocaine, alcohol and pills. His family had searched

everywhere for the help he needed. He had seen many experts, spent time in many hospitals and had been sent to see the senior Home Office psychiatrist at the time.

"His treatment was such as to be wholly inaccurate and almost dangerous, and he is still a Home Office adviser."

After his treatment in Minnesota he had made a full recovery.

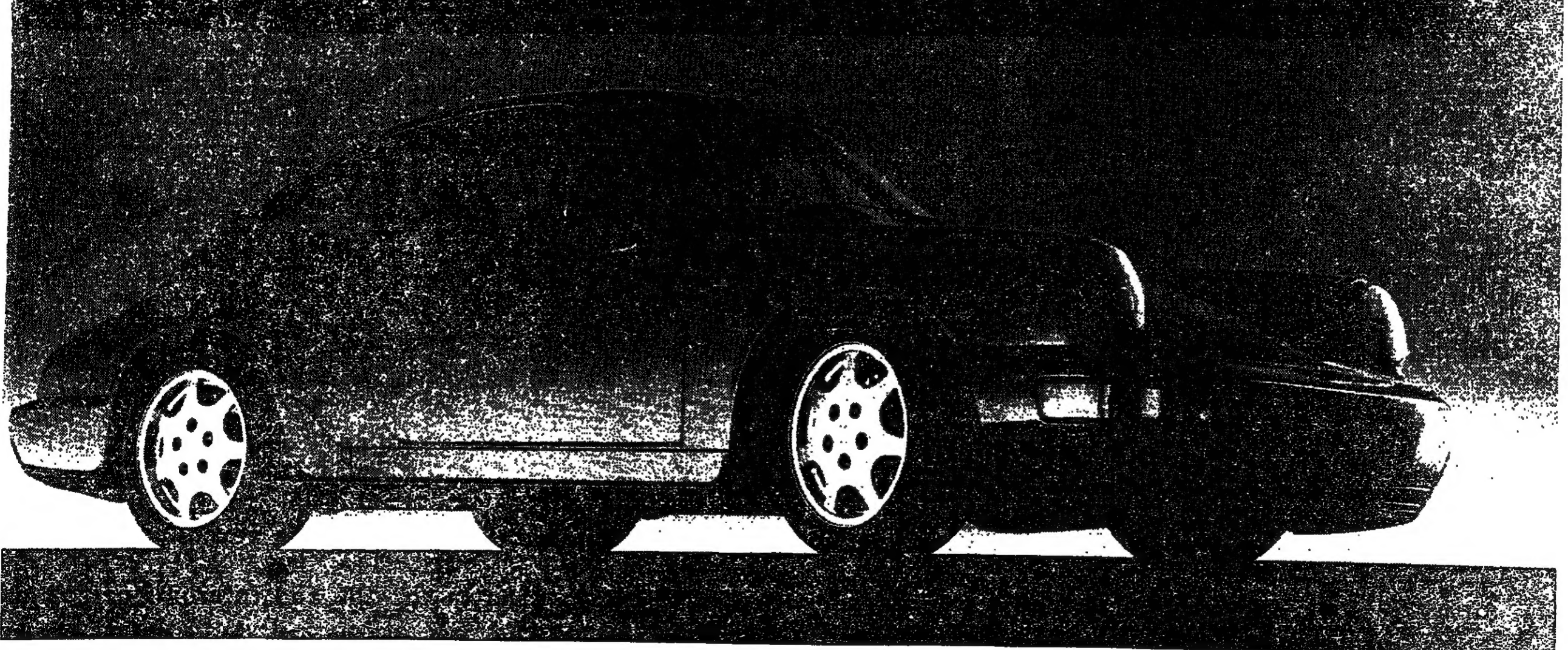
"The knowledge I have gained brings me to the inescapable conclusion that the chances of an addict getting any help in Britain in 1991 are scarcely better than they were in 1981 and the price of

addiction and alcoholism in social, health and economic terms is no longer acceptable. We must therefore not accept it."

Lord Rodney (C) chairman of the standing conference on drug abuse, who opened the debate, said that they could not turn the clock back but could ensure that drugs did not become as readily available as alcohol.

Lady Ewart-Biggs, for the Opposition, said that in June 1989, 10 per cent of men in prison were there for drug-related offences, and of women, 26 per cent. The large number of women imprisoned was because of the sharp increase of sentencing of female carriers from abroad.

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To ensure that Porsche drivers enjoy greater response and surer handling, the engineers also decided to use electronic sensors to monitor each of the wheels.

Should any of the wheels slip, the sensor informs a microprocessor which instructs one of two differentials to redistribute engine power to the axle of the appropriate wheel. (Clearly, this is a very disciplined revolution).

And in the unlikely event that traction is lost at either end of the car, 100% of the drive power can be automatically transferred to the opposite set of wheels.

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Breast cancer checks could save 1,250 lives a year

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 1,250 women suffering from breast cancer could be saved from death each year and expect to live another 20 years if the national screening programme was more widely used, government advisers said yesterday.

By the end of this decade one in four breast cancer deaths will be prevented among women aged 50 to 64, the eligible age group, if 70 per cent of them participate, according to a health department advisory committee.

The £25 million-a-year programme, the first national system of its kind in the world, has been dogged by uncertainties about its effectiveness since it was set up in 1986. The programme offers a mammograph, or breast x-ray, and follow-up treatment if necessary, every three years, through a network of 90 centres.

Breast cancer is the leading fatal cancer among women, causing about 15,000 deaths a year in Britain. It is diagnosed in another 24,500 women annually.

A report from the advisory committee endorsed the government's view that the programme will have a significant preventive impact, but will not be without serious prob-

lems. Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said: "All should be greatly encouraged by the conclusions, which confirm the value of routine breast screening for women between 50 and 64."

"We are going in the right direction to create a service of great benefit to women," she said that all women in the age group in England should have received a screening invitation by 1993.

However Roger Blamey, professor of surgical science at Nottingham City Hospital, said that in some areas the programme would have to be slowed down because of the demands it made on surgeons and other specialists.

"The system means that from a typical screening centre, about six more women every week will need minor surgical treatment just at a time when the axe is falling all round the country on surgery in general," he said.

There is no point in screening women if you cannot then offer them the appropriate treatment, such as a biopsy to ascertain whether they have an early form of cancer."

The report said that reforms to be introduced in April might reduce the availability of surgical services for such women. Many of those in the target age group do not come forward because they are afraid of the outcome or are not convinced of the benefits of treatment.

At the same time, clinics are under pressure from women under 50, who want to be examined but are ineligible. The report says studies have shown that screening does not reduce breast cancer deaths among women under 50 and attracts a poor response among women over 65.



Bottomley: "the value of screening is confirmed"

Health, page 17

Enquiry on Sutcliffe complaint

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Scotland Yard detective is to investigate allegations that Sonia Sutcliffe, wife of the Yorkshire Ripper, may have given conflicting evidence during two libel actions.

Yesterday a spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed that the police had been asked to look into a complaint against Mrs Sutcliffe. The complaint was made on behalf of the magazine *Private Eye*, which was ordered to pay her £600,000 after a libel action in May 1989. The figure was reduced on appeal to £60,000.

Legal advisers to the magazine compiled a report after Mrs Sutcliffe, aged 40, of Bradford, lost an action last year against the *News of the World*. The prosecution service will examine the conclusions of the police enquiry before deciding on any action.

Liverpool ex-leader arrested

By RONALD FAUX

TONY Byrne, former leader of Liverpool city council, was arrested yesterday by Merseyside police investigating land deals in Liverpool.

He became the twenty-third person to be arrested and released on bail without charge in Operation Chester, the police enquiry into the sale of council land and contracts awarded by the council.

Mr Byrne was finance committee chairman when the Labour council was dominated by Militant supporters and was regarded as the chief architect of the council's urban regeneration strategy which involved large-scale borrowing from foreign banks to finance a housing programme. He became council leader when Derek Hatton, deputy leader, and Tony Mulhearn, chairman of the Liverpool district Labour party, were expelled.

Drive on phone pests

A campaign to beat "heavy breathers" and obscene and threatening callers who make 25 million malicious phone calls a year was launched yesterday by British Telecom. A free helpline service telling customers how to counter the menace began operations and it will also be easier for BT to disconnect telephones used to make malicious calls.

Part of the strategy is to convince telephone pests that it is increasingly easy to trace them. Leaflets giving advice to customers on tackling malicious callers will be available.

Church theft

Thieves have stolen two brass chandeliers - one 18th century and valued at £4,000 - from St Peter and St Paul Church at Seal in west Kent.

Opt-out fails

Parents at King Edward VI school at Totnes, Devon, have voted against a plan to opt out of local authority control.

Port grows

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, today opens an £8 million extension to Teesport Container Terminal that doubles capacity.

Jobs go

Workers at Powell Duffryn's foundry at Poole, Dorset, have voted for job losses instead of a four-day week, and 34 are out of work after the 99-to-71 vote.

Race study

Researchers are to study harassment of Gloucester's 6,000 black and Asian residents.

Tie tribute

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the businessman, Henry Cooper, the former boxer, Michael Winner, the film director, and Sir Hardy Amies, the designer, have won Guild of British Tie-makers "Great Britons' Ties".

Protest penalty

Shaun Underwood, alias John Wilson, aged 23, from Manchester, was yesterday given a suspended 28-day jail term for threatening behaviour in anti-poll tax disorder in south London.

Seven accused

Five men and two women yesterday appeared in court facing 27 charges, including theft and fraud, involving West Yorkshire police authority.

Grimaldi death

The Dowager Marquise Kathleen Elizabeth Grimaldi, a relative of Monaco's royal family, has died at her home at Blackburn at the age of 81.

سكزا من لامل



Karen Hadfield leaving court with a friend yesterday after being awarded £339,000

£339,000 damages for Clapham crash widow

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail yesterday paid £339,000 in agreed damages to the wife of one of the Clapham rail crash victims, bringing the total amount paid out so far in compensation for injuries caused by the disaster to almost £4 million.

Karen Hadfield, aged 30, from Basingstoke, Hampshire, was pregnant when her husband Paul, aged 50, was killed in the train crash in December 1985. Their child, born in August 1989, was awarded £25,000 from the settlement.

Mrs Hadfield sued British Rail for compensation for the shock, grief, and suffering caused by the disaster, and for the loss of her husband's financial support. Before the crash, Mr Hadfield had been a property services engineer for IBM, the computer company.

Jacqueline Perry, for Mrs Hadfield, said in the High Court: "The most poignant aspect of this particular case is that Mrs Hadfield was pregnant at the time of her husband's demise." Mr Justice Popplewell, who approved the settlement, described the award as sensible, and commended Mrs Hadfield, who was in court, for showing very great courage. Mrs Hadfield's case is the

second to be dealt with by the courts, following the £106,881 settlement awarded to Carol Perry-Lewis, aged 43, from Bournemouth, Dorset, last March for the death of her husband Austin, aged 49. After yesterday's hearing Mrs Hadfield said: "I am just pleased it's all over."

British Rail said that it has paid out almost £4 million in settlements to victims of the Clapham disaster, including payments to the families of 14 of the 35 passengers killed, and about 264 of the 400

people injured in the crash. There are now some 22 cases outstanding "some of which may take time to settle while the full extent of the injury and losses are established."

British Rail said that it has paid out almost £4 million in settlements to victims of the Clapham disaster, including payments to the families of 14 of the 35 passengers killed, and about 264 of the 400

Fault halts £1m loco

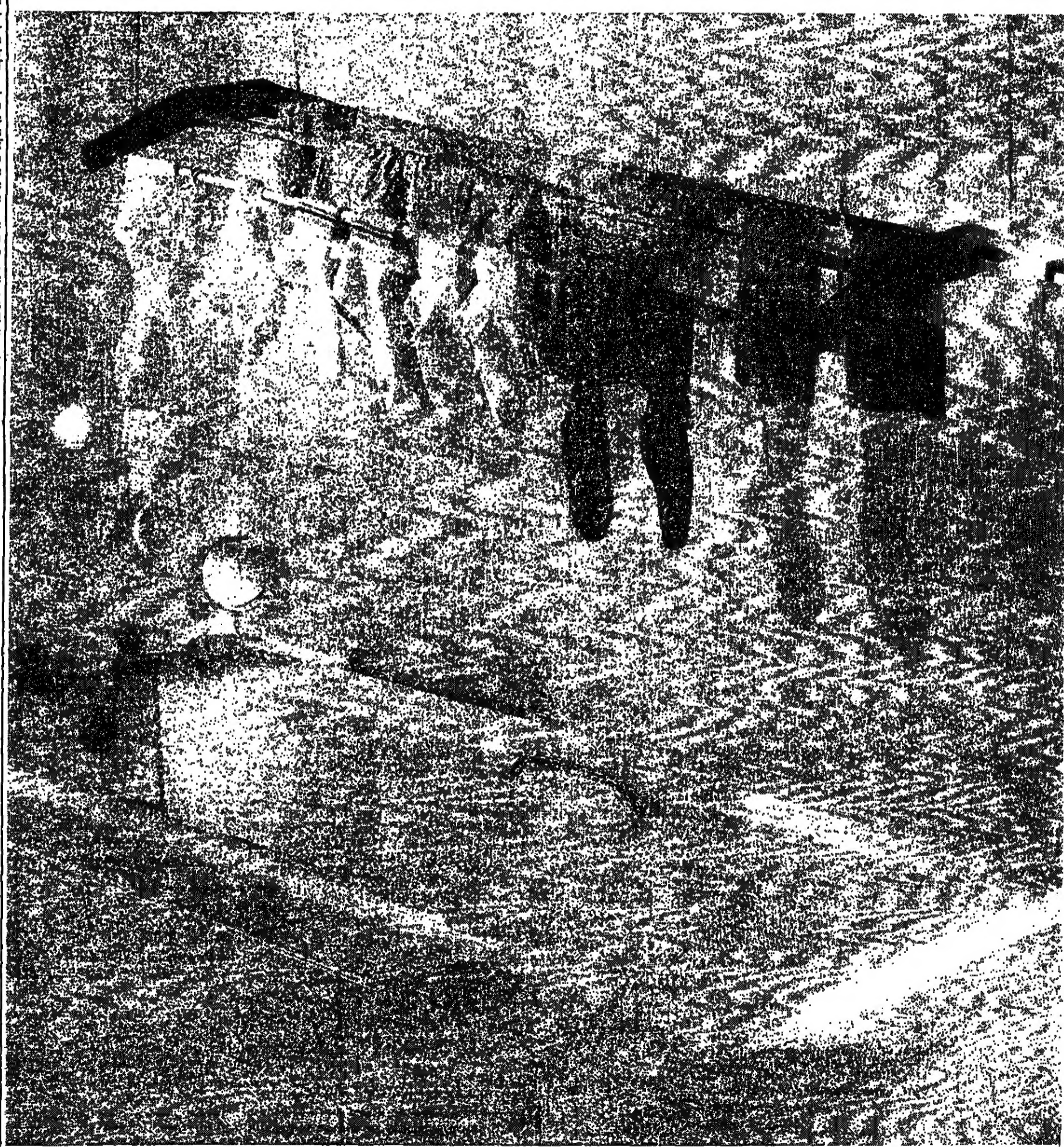
BRITISH Rail has withdrawn some of its newest locomotives from operation between Birmingham and London after the discovery of a potential fault (Craig Seton writes).

Fourteen of the class 90 locomotives, each costing about £1 million, are undergoing tests at British Rail Engineering in Derby. Their withdrawal has meant that InterCity rail services between Birmingham and London have been halved from two an hour since the weekend, although an almost normal

service is expected to resume today. The locomotives were introduced in the London Midland region in 1988.

British Rail said yesterday that a potential fault connected with vibration has been found in the axles of the latest models of the class '90' and they had been withdrawn for maintenance, leading to shortage of locomotives for passenger services.

Under half of the 50 class '90' locomotives operating a used for passenger service. The rest are on freight operations.



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WHY MAKE LIFE COMPLICATED?



Policy Studies Institute survey of Britain in 2010

No signs of great change in the official crystal ball

By JOHN YOUNG

ARRING world wars or disasters, life in Britain 20 years' time will not be radically different from now, a report published today

gests. The report, produced by the Policy Studies Institute, with financial support from government departments and industry, presents an all too recognisable picture of poor economic performance, traffic congestion, overcrowding in the South-East, and continuing concern about pollution in the environment. However, it concludes that there is still substantial growth, enough to create three to four million new jobs. There may be some fall in hours of work but that is likely to be offset by the longer hours worked in many higher occupations. There is likely to be some increase in annual holidays. There will be a continuing decline in unskilled manual jobs and a rise in the qualifications and training required for professional, scientific, technical and managerial occupations. Computer-based services and telecommunications

links will open up increased possibilities for operating a console from the living room or the garden, and avoiding commuting.

The introduction of the single European market will give added impetus to the movement of people and jobs to the south of England. The opening of the Channel tunnel will increase congestion in Greater London unless high-

speed rail links are extended to other parts of Britain. The movement of population out of the conurbations, changes in agriculture, increased car ownership and the popularity of open air recreation will put further pressures on the countryside. Rather than encourage large new out-of-town shopping and leisure complexes, planning policies are likely to be directed to rejuvenating city centres and improving public transport.

6 The threat of global warming is likely to bring tough action to cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and very much higher prices for electricity, petrol, gas and heating oil 9

one quarter of the population will still need to rent.

Improving drinking water and ending sewage dumping at sea will require heavy investment, largely met by higher charges to householders. The threat of global warming is likely to bring increasingly tough action to cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and very much higher prices for electricity, petrol, gas and heating oil.

Spending on food, drink and tobacco is forecast to fall from 21 per cent of consumer

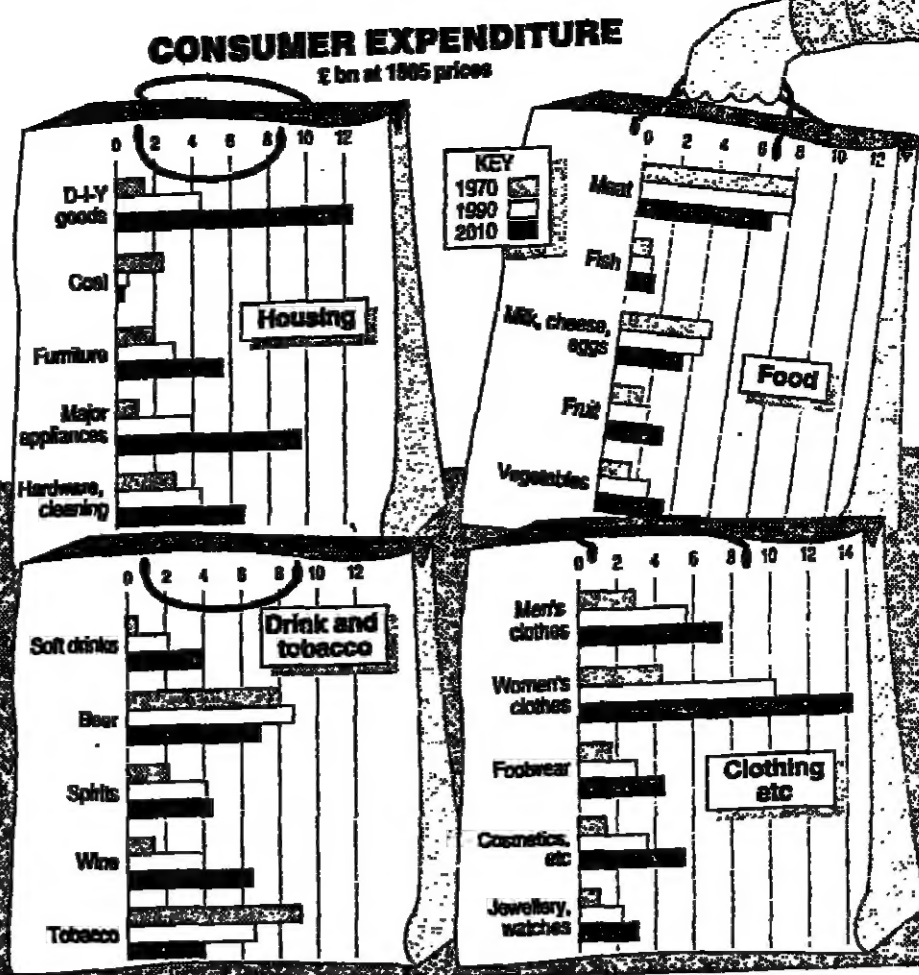
expenditure in 1990 to 13 per cent in 2010.

On average people in Britain watch television for about 25 hours a week, far more than in most other countries. High viewing levels are likely to continue, along with other home-based activities. But other activities are expected to increase, including visits to the theatre, opera, ballet, cinema, museums and historic sites and buildings. Participation in sport will also grow but attendance at most spectator sporting events will continue to decline.

Health care will be improved by new diagnostic systems, surgical techniques and drugs, but they will not extend the normal life span of 80 years or so.

The incidence of divorce and of cohabitation outside marriage will continue to increase, but at a slower rate. The nuclear family of two adults, with or without dependent children, will still be the norm, but marriage will be seen less commonly as a lifetime commitment.

Britain in 2010 (Policy Studies Institute, 100 Park Village East, London NW1 3SR; £17.95 paperback, £29.95 hardback)



2,000 million more to feed

THE world's population is expected to increase by about 2,000 million, the equivalent of the combined present population of China and India, by 2010, the report points out (John Young writes).

This increase will bring further great pressures on

food, water and other resources, and will cause environmental problems, overcrowding and political tensions.

The collapse of communism will lead to great changes within the Soviet Union, which faces enormous

difficulties and years of turbulence before perestroika produces economic successes. Over the next 20 years the United States is likely to remain the world's strongest military power and its largest economy. Japan will continue to grow in economic strength, but at a slightly less rapid rate. China is unlikely to emerge as a giant new economic force until after 2010.

Closer relations between EC member states may well move a long way towards a United States of Europe. The community is likely to be extended by new members: Sweden, Norway, Finland and Austria in the 1990s and later Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and possibly Poland.

The ending of the Cold War will remove one world problem, but the threat of global warming will pose another of no less magnitude, the report says. Air, river and sea pollution, acid rain, nuclear fallout and ozone depletion have all attracted international concern, but global warming raises far more difficult problems which have yet to be addressed.

Consumer spending is £360bn a year

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE British public spent almost £360 billion last year, according to the market research organisation Mintel. The total represented a 144 per cent increase on 1980 at present prices, and an increase of more than a third in real terms.

Housing accounted for the most sharply increased proportion of spending, claiming £80.7 billion in 1990, which was 22.4 per cent of total consumer expenditure. That was an increase of 2.8 per cent in its share of consumer expenditure since 1980, and was largely accounted for by a rise in the proportion of privately owned homes, from 56 per cent to 67 per cent.

More than one third of all personal net wealth is now derived from home ownership, after deducting mortgage debt. The marketable wealth of individuals, Mintel says, has grown by an average 15 per cent a year since 1981, sustaining consumer confidence and encouraging wider use of credit, which enabled us to increase faster than disposable incomes over the past decade.

While insurance and pensions, transport, entertainment, household and garden products, and medical and education fees all claimed increasing proportions of total spending, smaller proportions were spent on basics such as food, domestic power, clothing and drinks and tobacco.

Sectors showing particularly rapid growth included spending on domestic and garden help (up 394 per cent) and on the purchase of boats and planes (up 377 per cent). Spending on private medical fees also more than trebled.

Looking back over the past two decades Mintel found that between 1970 and 1990 home ownership had increased from fewer than half of dwellings to more than two thirds. Almost three quarters of homes have central heating, compared with little more than a quarter in 1970, and 42 per cent have double glazing, which was rare in 1970.

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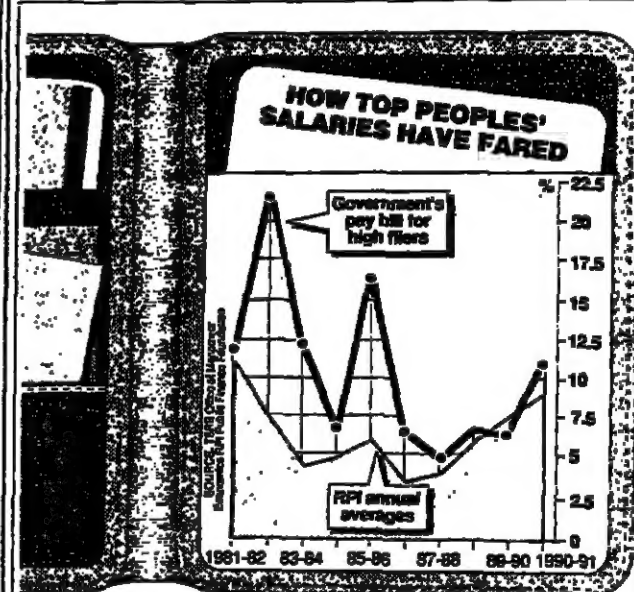
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Approval today for 1m pay rises

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE cabinet is today expected to approve pay rises for nearly a million government employees when it considers the annual reports of the public service pay review bodies.

Given the war in the Gulf, most attention is likely to focus on the rises for the 300,000 members of the armed forces, though any increase recommended for the nation's 500,000 nurses is also likely to draw the usual public support.

Expectations in Whitehall are that the proposed rises could be 9 per cent - 2 per cent more than the approximate target for the public services which was being muttered about among ministers earlier in the pay round and probably a good deal higher than the "headline" inflation rate for April, when the increases are due to be implemented.

The rises covered by the Top Salaries Review Body (TSRB), those for about 200 senior officers in the armed forces, the top 660 civil servants and about 1,200 members of the judiciary, are likely to draw any public disapproval there may be. That is partly because some are such obvious aunts salaries: mandarin Sir Humphreys, remote High Court judges, crusty admirals and generals.

Their pay has been set by the TSRB since it was established in 1971 by the Heath government, though its roots go back to the committee on higher civil service pay established in 1955. In the past decade,

those covered by the TSRB have done pretty well. Their rises, like pay generally, have outstripped inflation; but the increases have been bigger than the average in both the public and private sectors and have kept pace with the top 10 per cent in the private sector.

Ten years ago, a judge's pay was £35,000. By 1986 it had risen to £62,100, and on January 1 this year, as part of last year's TSRB staged award, it rose to £77,000. In 1981 civil servants on Grade 2, the level which used to be called deputy secretary, were paid £26,215. They now earn £54,900.

To get what economists call "real" pay increases, rises in inflation have to be set against pay. This gives a real annual average TSRB increase, ahead of inflation, of 4 per cent. In the private sector overall, the equivalent figure is 2.6 per cent although for the top tenth it is 3.8 per cent. In the public services generally it is 1 per cent.

The government has often delayed or staged rises recommended by the TSRB and other review bodies and sometimes refused to pay the full amount recommended, as part of its efforts to hold down wage inflation. The decisions on today's expected reports will show how far it is still prepared to use those public servants covered by review bodies to set an example to employees in the rest of the economy.

Leading article, page 13

Tributes to Runcie's humour

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Modern Roundheads face wrath as village sets poll tax precedent

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

NOT since Charles II reputedly took refuge from the Roundheads in a local oak tree the night before his flight to France have the good people of Shoreham-by-Sea found themselves at the centre of such controversy.

The old Saxon fishing village on the West Sussex coast has become the first to set down a poll tax marker for implementation on April 1 that will embarrass cabinet hopes of keeping bills below £400.

Adur district council, which also covers the towns of Southwick, Lancing and Sompting, is expected next month to ratify a policy committee recommendation for a 16 per cent increase in its charge to £405 a year.

Throughout this picturesque coastal strip between the sea and

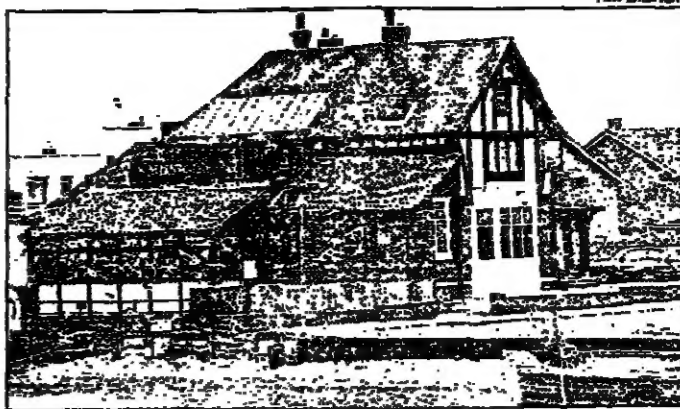
the South Downs in which the 57,000 Adur residents live, the view is forming that the council Roundheads should take refuge from local wrath in the nuclear bomb shelter reputedly built in the foundations of the civic centre. The council, controlled by the Liberal Democrats, blames the £55-per-head rise on the Tory-run West Sussex council, which already pockets a £266 per person precept, to increase its budget by 13.5 per cent.

"I don't know about that, but I know who I blame for keeping me poor," Irene Webb, a widow aged 78 who retired only three years ago as a hotel housekeeper, said. "It's disgusting. If I have 3p in my pocket the council wants 4p in poll tax. I get punished because I get a little bit of a pension after my husband's

death. The council takes it all. What do I get for the money? Dirty streets all the way from here to London."

Nearly 30 per cent of Shoreham's population are retired and they are angry. The population is expected to keep the line hot when Martin King, leader of the council, and his committee chairman open a phone-in at the civic centre to invite public response next month to the new charge.

Mr King says services will have to be cut to the bone because of the county precept and Adur's contribution to the government's safety-net scheme that leaves the council with only £65 from the present charge of £350 a head. Garth Staden, chief executive, said yesterday: "It is obviously disappointing that the



Bitter reaction: Waterside Inn by the river in Shoreham

council has to consider this sum but it really has no alternative when it receives such a low level of government grant and when the county precept is as high as it is," Ian Lidbetter, aged 43, who

system to £1,215 from April 1 for his family of three, said: "I would pay it if I saw my money being used properly, but it's not, it's wasted."

"I am thinking about not paying. A lot of people don't pay and what is done about it? Poll tax should be paid according to the house you live in and your wealth. I am being robbed."

Peter Murphy, aged 49, painter and decorator, said: "The charge is going up to make up for people not paying. Something must be done about that. It's not fair. I'd like to know what they're doing about this extra money they're collecting. I don't get value for money. What is particularly unkind is when there is only one earner in the family."

Not all the people in Adur, which gets its name from the river that divides the district, agree. James Greig, aged 64, a

retired steel erector, said: "Whatever this council does is all right by me because their service is excellent. Whatever the council sets I know it is the lowest possible amount they can charge. I just wish the government would let them use the money they collect the way they want."

Sir Richard Luce, Conservative MP for Shoreham, said last night that Adur district council had no excuse for setting the charge at £405. "They must carry the can and be fully answerable to all charge payers for this."

"West Sussex county council, which has a very high reputation for prudent spending and is likely to be the lowest spender of all councils, is recommending a budget 8 per cent below the standard spending assessment at a saving of £58 per charge payer."

Church of England General Synod

Overwhelming vote to review clergy's right to job for life

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE clergy freehold, which guarantees many clerics a job for life, is under threat after the General Synod of the Church of England last night backed a call for it to be reviewed.

After a heated two-hour debate at Church House, Westminster, the synod voted overwhelmingly, by 316 to 84, for a review of the freehold tenure of all ecclesiastical offices, with consideration of its replacement by a renewable terms of years.

The Rev John Hall, of Southwark, south London, said: "The freehold symbolises protection and privilege. It protects the freeholder from the ultimate sanction of dismissal. Thus it puts him beyond censure, almost beyond question, except in that narrow band of circumstances subject to ecclesiastical law." Moving the motion on behalf of the Southwark diocese, Mr Hall said the freehold should be replaced by a renewable term of about 10 years.

According to a briefing paper prepared for the synod by the bishop's council of Southwark, the freehold cannot be good for anybody, especially the "pastorally inadequate", to serve for as many as four decades in one place. "The freehold places ordained ministry above the church. It

encourages canonical disobedience in that the incumbent can decline a bishop's request that he be moved."

There was no freehold in most other churches. Of about 10,700 full-time stipendiary clergy in 1989, nearly two-thirds had freehold. Most vicars in team ministries do not hold freeholds.

The Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, said: "There are of course clergy who ought not to be in their parishes and who ought to be eased out." But measures already passed enabled the removal of most where necessary, he said. "I do wonder why this hammer to crack a nut is being put forward at this particular time."

Canon Granville Gibson, of Durham, said: "We are in a church which is supposed to be in the business of trusting. I believe we are stifled by the freehold."

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, supported the motion because it would give badly needed flexibility.

The synod had a foretaste of what was to come in a debate today when a member accused a leading theologian of abusing his position to expound feminist theology in the debating chamber.

The Rev Dr Tom Wright, chaplain and theology tutor at Worcester College, Oxford, referred to the Holy Spirit by the feminine pronoun in his biblical exposition. He suggested a re-translation of Romans 8:26: "We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit herself intercedes on our behalf with our inarticulate groanings."

The Rev Graham Hallam, who attempted to delay a debate on episcopacy in order to bring forward a debate on feminist theology, said: "It is quite wrong to say we can refer to the Holy Spirit as being God in directly feminine terms such as herself and We. We are not allowed in scripture to refer to God as her or herself."

A report published today criticises the lack of opportunities for career development for women serving as deacons and calls for each diocese to review its deployment policy.

The results of a questionnaire sent to all dioceses showed resistance towards women in leadership roles, but most dioceses were "emphatic in their judgment that the impact of women had been very positive in most cases".

The report, which says there were nearly 1,000 women serving as deacons at the end of 1989, will be submitted to the house of bishops to help draw up guidelines.



Contrasting styles: a geranium tailor (left) was a highlight of the Chanel collection. Saint Laurent included a long evening dress with red organza bolero



Understated flair from the Master

By LEZ SMITH, FASHION EDITOR

YVES Saint Laurent is fashion's anchor. At the end of the round of high fashion in Paris this week he pulled together the different threads of contemporary style and secured them into a rational whole. The Master himself appeared at the end of his show yesterday looking happy and stronger than in October during the ready-to-wear season, and blew kisses to dedicated followers including Catherine Deneuve and Zizi Jeanmaire.

After other couture houses had paraded their collections against the background of war and recession, Saint Laurent's unflappable conviction in the chic of understatement is all the more appreciated. If there are fewer customers for couture clothes, then those that there are would do well to follow the leader. Like others in Paris he drapes soft dresses in colourful crepe and chiffon.

At a Saint Laurent show the soothing sensation is that here is style at its most definitive. The collection has a whimsical airiness emphasised by guipure lace jackets and grey and white striped taffeta skirts. "I wanted a sense of lightness and freedom," he said.

Drivers and smokers pay more in Dublin's welfare budget

ALBERT Reynolds, the Irish finance minister, hit motorists and smokers to help the less well off in a neutral budget overshadowed by the Gulf war yesterday.

He raised the price of road tax and cigarettes to offset tax cuts and higher benefits for the low paid, unemployed and those on social welfare.

Income tax rates were cut by 1 per cent but the minister was unable to deliver on his promise of wider tax reform because of economic uncertainty caused by

the Gulf conflict. The main features of his budget were an increase of 10p on a packet of 20 cigarettes from midnight, bringing the price up to £12.10 (£1.92); a 10 per cent increase in road tax from April 1; top income tax rate cut from 53 to 52 per cent; and standard income tax rate cut from 30 to 29 per cent.

Standard value-added tax rate was cut from 23 to 21 per cent and there was an across-the-board increase of 4 per cent for those on social welfare benefits from July.

There will be a one-off payment of £1.1 million to help the tourist industry to get over the effects of the Gulf war.

The minister said his tax reforms would cost the Exchequer £114.5 million this year. He said his reform of the VAT would further reduce the potential for cross-border distortions of trade. "Workers will see their living standards improve this year," he added. "This is tangible progress."

Mr Reynolds issued a warning that global changes would affect the Irish economy. "We are seeing the tragedy of war in the Middle East. My budget today must take account of these developments."

The minister predicted 11,000 new jobs this year but an overall rise in unemployment figures to 228,000 because of a fall off in emigration.

Last night the budget was criticised by Michael Noonan, the Opposition Fine Gael finance spokesman. He said it was full of sound and fury. "It's dramatic in its failure, its failure to take decisions, to address the real problems of the country."

Mr Noonan said that the finance minister had "launched a Scud missile into the Irish economy". It lacked a target and would not provide one extra job.

Field faces reselection

A RERUN of the reselection contest in Frank Field's Birkenhead constituency was approved in principle yesterday by Labour's national executive (Philip Webster writes).

After the second investigation into the state of the local party, the leadership also agreed to lay charges of Militant Tendency membership against nine of its members. Their cases will be before the party's national constitutional committee.

The executive will discuss a new timetable at its meeting next month, although it may still be

some months before it takes place. Mr Field and Paul Davies, who ousted him in the original contest, are eligible to stand.

Meanwhile the executive has given the go-ahead for the votes to be counted in the ballot to choose a Labour candidate to succeed Denis Howell, the former sports minister, as candidate in Birmingham Small Heath.

Counting of the papers was suspended last year pending an enquiry into allegations of impersonation and vote-rigging. The executive has found no evidence to support the allegations.

Tributes to Runcie's humour

DR ROBERT Runcie, 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury, will retire tomorrow after more than ten years in office with tributes to a sense of humour that lightened the ecclesiastical strife of the secular 1980s (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Dr Runcie, known affectionately to his staff as the Arch, once said: "I stand as usual poised rather uneasily between the cliché and the indiscretion."

Adrian Hastings, professor of theology at Leeds University, said in his official biography, *Robert Runcie*, that the archbishop had excelled since his schooldays at providing comic relief. "It is a pastoral skill as well as a sheer gift for entertainment."

Professor Hastings relates how, after being granted the freedom of the city of Canterbury, Dr Runcie said in his speech that he was relieved the resolution had been passed decisively, and told the story of a vicar who was on holiday for his 50th birthday. "A telegram arrived that morning which read: 'At their meeting last night the PCC [parochial church council] passed the following resolution. We wish the vicar a happy birthday. There voted for the motion 12, against the motion 11.'"

Dr Runcie's wit helped him to cope with the critical press reports that followed the Falklands war and apparent clashes with the Tory government. A member of staff recalled: "He would say with a sigh, some archbishops were a sight, some archbishops were a sigh, drawn and quartered. Arch-bishop Alphege was done to death with mutton bones. It looks as if it is my fate to be done to death by the media." Eve Kealey, his former press secretary, said: "He's always very adept at telling a story against himself, which is the most disarming kind of wit there is."

Dr Runcie has credited his wife, Rosalind, with the survival of his personality, by not allowing him to take himself too seriously. They will move to St Albans, where he will be an honorary assistant bishop and continue his hobby of keeping pigs.

Unseemly wrangling continues in the cathedral close

By GEORGE HILL

DEADLOCK still reigns in the cathedral close. When the general chapter of Lincoln cathedral met earlier this week to debate the notorious quarrel between four canons and the dean, there were hopes in the close-knit community of the diocese that the long-running dispute might be resolved. Today, however, that seems as far away as ever and the former routine of unseemly public wrangling is in full swing again.

Stung by reports in *The Times* yesterday that he had sent the embattled four a memorandum demanding their resignation, the dean, The Very Reverend Brandon Jackson, denied having done so. "They are not my canons," he said. "They are appointed by the bishop, and he has asked them to resign. Since he did so last November, the issue has become one very plainly of episcopal authority. It is a bad day for the Church of England if a bishop can continue to be disobeyed by his

canons in the proper exercise of his authority."

Apparently abrasive passages in the memorandum had been selectively leaked, the dean said. "I hope I am not abrasive, but I put a high value on speaking the plain truth. The memorandum also stressed that I would love most of all to see them find fulfilment, happiness and positive ministry, in an alternative sphere of service, as the bishop has proposed."

The uproar at Lincoln is an ecclesiastical squabble worthy of the pen of Trollope. He would have relished the unseemly passions exploding from clerical breasts, and the timeless ingenuity of Anglican churchmen in persuading themselves that their personal prejudices and interests exactly coincide with their Christian duty.

The dispute became public last year after it was disclosed that a fund-raising exhibition of the cathedral's copy of Magna Carta in Australia in 1988 had left a debt of £36,000. The director of public

prosecutions has approved a police investigation into the circumstances surrounding this loss.

When the dean was appointed early in 1989, the full extent of this disaster was not yet known in Lincoln. It was his attempts to discover what had happened that led to the first clash between him and the cathedral treasurer, Canon Rex Davis, an Australian who proposed the venture.

The Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Robert Hardy, was called in by the parties to arbitrate. His report was a measured, devastating and anguished indictment of petty jealousy, verbal abuse, financial naivety and indiscretion towards the media.

He censured all five of his subordinates and the following month wrote directly to the four canons urging them to resign. He has no legal power to dismiss them, however, and they have sat tight. At least three of the four are said to have been offered alternative appointments, and two are

known to want to leave for personal reasons. But all four have refused to leave while they remain under a cloud in the eyes of the public.

In the meantime the work of the five-man inner chapter that effectively runs the cathedral is plagued by conflicts. The four canons have an unassailable majority of votes against the dean as long as they stick together. It is clear to most outsiders that relations within the group have deteriorated to an irretrievable extent.

The dispute has spread dismay among local clergymen and devotion in the town, but the cathedral's people carry on with the observance of their daily round of religious and practical duties, whatever their perplexities over the antics of their betters. At next Sunday's evensong, the anthem will be Boyce: "O where shall wisdom be found?" It is a question that appears to defeat all the resources of the senior churchmen of Lincoln.



Lincoln cathedral: scene of ecclesiastical squabble

Major interview, page 1

Central funds for colleges

Five colleges and the Polytechnic of Wales are to be removed from local authority control in April 1992 and funded directly by the government. David Hunt, Welsh secretary, said yesterday (John O'Leary writes).

The management consultant Price Waterhouse recommended that the polytechnic should be funded directly, but Mr Hunt is to transfer the Cardiff and W Glamorgan institutes of higher education, the Gwent college of higher education, the Welsh college of music and drama, and the Normal College, Bangor, as well.

A small group of people involved in higher education business will advise him on funding, and the Wales Advisory Body for Local Authority Higher Education will be disbanded.

Marine acquitted

A Royal Marines sergeant, who admitted hitting two youths on the head with a pistol in Enniskillen Co Fermanagh, was acquitted in Belfast yesterday of inflicting grievous bodily harm on the youths who both suffered fractured skulls. The judge accepted that Martin John Kirby, of 5 Angelo Barracks, near Enniskillen, believed his life was in danger and acted in self defence.

Speelman wins

Jon Speelman hit back with a Anatoly Karpov idea to count the Grünfeld Defence in the third game of the world chess championship qualifying competition yesterday. The man, believed to be from Northern Ireland, was admitted to hospital some day ago but that was not disclosed until yesterday after efforts by the Guardia to identify him had failed and the RUC in Belfast was asked to help.

Guard on patient

An unidentified man with serious bomb injuries was under armed guard yesterday in Louth County Hospital at Dundalk in the Irish Republic. The man, believed to be from Northern Ireland, was admitted to hospital some day ago but that was not disclosed until yesterday after efforts by the Guardia to identify him had failed and the RUC in Belfast was asked to help.

FROM STEPHEN TAYLOR IN CAPE TOWN

ment, the Democrats and other parliamentary parties.

Dr Worrall added that the ANC-Inkatha agreement to end the violence and intimidation between their followers that has been torturing black townships, had raised the expectations of all South Africans. "We trust that their respective followers will act in the same spirit of reconciliation," he said.

However, signs of the political and ideological differences that still divide the two parties were not long in emerging yesterday. Themba Khoza, Inkatha's leader in Transvaal, criticised the ANC's decision to call for a vote stoppage tomorrow. Mr Mandela is due to lead a march through Cape Town to parliament during Mr de Klerk's speech to press the ANC's demand for the election of a constituent assembly.

Mr Khoza said the campaign was provocative, and called on the ANC to ensure there was no harassment of those who refused to take part, or who wanted to go to work.

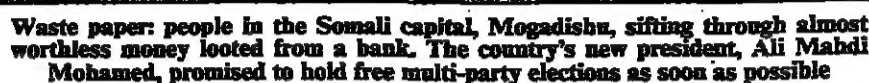
No mandate had come from the townships for the ANC campaign, he added.

He said the Mandela-Buthelezi talks had inspired hope, but much work had to be done at all levels to fulfil it.

Press and television coverage here dwelt on the positive aspects of the Durban meeting. Images of Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi smiling and embracing were represented as balm to the townships' wounds.

● **Farmers leave:** The 10,000 farmers who brought chaos to Pretoria for 24 hours by blocking streets with tractors and trucks in a protest at what they see as government indifference to their economic situation trekked back to their farms yesterday in heavy rain (Ray Kennedy writes).

The end came after the city council was awarded a supreme court injunction declaring their presence in the city illegal, after the judge was taken to court on the back of a motorcycle because there was no other way through the traffic jams.



Ershad's deputy sent to prison

A JAPANESE mission to Pyongyang yesterday, engaged in the first attempt to improve relations with North Korea, apologised for Japan's "unfortunate past relations" with the peninsula, but rejected calls for reparations for economic damage.

Although the Japanese dismissed claims for post-1945 reparations, for damage caused by hostile relations between the two countries, they indicated a willingness to fulfil reparations relating to the colonial era from 1910-1945.

North Korea had demanded that Japan pay "war reparations" for its 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea and the 1945-91 period on the grounds that Japan's colonial rule led to the division of Korea.

Noboru Nakahira, the leader of the Japanese delegation and a former ambassador to Malaysia, said Japan was never at war with Korea and that it will not compensate for the post-war period. He offered Japan's first official expression of regret when he met Kim Yong Nam, North Korea's foreign minister. "We are reflecting deeply on the troubles caused to the Korean people by the past Japanese rule," he said.

When Japan normalised relations with South Korea in 1965, it extended grants and low-interest loans worth \$500 million (£253 million) in return for a promise from Seoul not to press for colonial or war reparations.

Mr Kim yesterday expressed Pyongyang's desire to end 80 years of strained relations with Tokyo and to improve ties with the United States.

The Japanese delegation, due to complete talks today, is expected to seek agreement from North Korea to permit inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency. North Korea, a signatory to the 1968 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, has refused access to the agency, demanding instead the removal of American nuclear weapons from the peninsula.

Mr Nakahira's mission will also sound out Pyongyang over possible simultaneous membership of the United Nations with South Korea.

that Pyongyang's rapid moves toward normal relations with Japan might undermine its own prime ministerial talks with North Korea. In an attempt to allay South Korean fears, Mr Nakahira said: "The normalisation of relations between Japan and North Korea does not mean a retreat from Japanese-South Korean ties."

● **Torture trial:** A Seoul court yesterday jailed four policemen for between two and five years for torturing a leading dissident during interrogation, court officials said.

The four, former members of an elite anti-communist unit, were convicted of torturing Kim Kun Tae, the recipient of the 1987 Robert Kennedy human rights award from the United States.

DHAKA — Deposed President Ershad's deputy, Moudud Ahmed, the former vice-president, has been jailed under the special powers act for 120 days in a new move by the Bangladesh authorities to hasten the trial of former government leaders (Ahmed Enazl writes).

Together with Mahmudul Hasan, the former interior minister, the former vice-president was taken from house arrest to Dhaka central prison yesterday. Three other ministers have been arrested in the past two days and court officials said legal proceedings had been drawn up against the jailed ministers.

Political parties and student leaders are demanding that Mr Ershad, aged 61, under house arrest with his wife since December 12, be transferred to jail and treated as an

He and his wife, who face charges of corruption and abuse of power, have challenged their detention in the high court.

Reform reward

Peking — China named an economic reformist, Xie Fei, aged 58, as the new party leader in Guangdong province, ending months of speculation over direction of the communist apparatus in the southern province, which has taken the lead in market-oriented reforms. (Reuters)

Chinese exodus

Hong Kong — The Canadian commission, swamped by applications from Chinese wanting to leave the British colony, is to close from March 4 to 13 to deal with an estimated backlog of 25,000 applications. Canada is the most popular choice among Hong Kong people seeking to emigrate. (Reuter)

Haiti promise

Paris — Jean-Baptiste Aristide, the president-elect of Haiti, pledged during his visit here to recover an estimated \$800 million (£400 million) allegedly taken from the poor Caribbean island by the former ruling Duvalier family. He hoped to begin legal action after being sworn into office on February 7. (AP)

Shuttle delay

Cape Canaveral — The space shuttle *Discovery* will make its first flight this year in early March, nearly a week later than planned, so that three faulty steering thrusters can be replaced, Nasa said. The date of the mission, which is dedicated to defence department work, will be fixed in mid-February. (AP)

Play banned

Nairobi — The government has banned a British-Kenyan production of a play that attacks corruption, adapted from *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, the British Council said. The letter said: "It is deemed appropriate that the licence not be given for now, but officials are still studying the script. (Reuters)

Quebec demand for more powers

From JOHN BEST in OTTAWA:

A REPORT by Quebec's governing Liberal party calling for a wholesale transfer of powers to the province from the federal government has started an ominous new phase in the debate over Canada's future as a nation.

If the demands are not met by the rest of Canada, says the report, made public in Quebec City on Tuesday, a referendum should be held before the end of 1992 in which Quebec

include areas over which Canadian provinces already have exclusive jurisdiction, such as health, education and social services. Additionally, they said, the areas now under shared control, such as agriculture, the environment, language and public safety, and other areas hitherto exclusively under federal control, such as unemployment insurance, communications and regional development.

Powers would be shared in several areas which have been fully under federal jurisdiction, aboriginal affairs, immigration, fisheries, the post office, transport and foreign policy. The only powers left exclusively to the federal government would be defence, customs and excise, management of the public debt and currency equalisation.

The committee report still has to be approved by a party convention in March before becoming official Liberal policy. Unless it is substantially diluted, it is doubtful that English Canada will accept it as the basis for negotiations on renewed federalism, since it would leave the central government almost emasculated.

In Ottawa, Brian Mulroney, the prime minister, "Obviously, there are a lot of changes that can be made while retaining . . . the unity and integrity of Canada."

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Soviet plenum aims to give communist party back its power

FROM MARY DELEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MORE than 200 members of the Soviet Communist Party's central committee convene here today for a plenary meeting that they hope will mark the party's return to the forefront of Soviet life after more than six months in the cold.

The agenda of the meeting, announced two days before it was due to take place, has not been disclosed, but it is likely to offer little comfort to President Gorbachev.

Topics are expected to include progress of the new union treaty, intended to keep the Soviet Union together as a loose federation but which is encountering opposition from almost every republic. They might also include foreign policy, in particular the stance on the Gulf war and the simmering problems related

to the retreat from Eastern Europe and the unification of Germany.

The party's response to the disorder in the domestic economy, and the effect of the policy of party disengagement from economic management is also likely to feature on the plenum agenda.

Most controversial of all, the agenda could include a discussion of the state presidency and the desirability or not of Mr Gorbachev continuing to combine the roles of party general-secretary and president. The party establishment has expressed strong opposition on the reform policies pursued until recently by the president.

Apart from the agenda, the most significant aspect of this plenum is its timing. It is being held on the eve of a

meeting of the Soviet Union's new executive body, the Council of the Federation, which is made up of the leaders of the 15 republics.

The constitutional changes agreed last month have made the Council of the Federation the chief policy-making and executive body in the Soviet Union, effectively replacing the party politburo. The convening of a central committee plenum immediately before the council meets suggests, however, that the party leadership will contribute to, if not determine, the federation council's agenda.

This would mark a retreat towards the old ways of running the Soviet Union and cement the return to influence of the party apparatus. The beginning of the retreat was symbolised by Mr Gorbachev's decision to address the last central committee plenum in early December, instead of travelling to Oslo for the Nobel prize ceremony.

After the Russian Federation and Soviet party congresses of last summer, Mr Gorbachev appeared to have successfully excluded the Communist Party from day-to-day power. All government ministries, defence and security functions had been subordinated to the presidency and the parliamentary structure, and the party was relegated to the sidelines.

During the autumn, however, and despite a loss of nearly one million of the 19 million members, the party re-emerged as a united and disciplined force within the new parliamentary structures.

Meanwhile, the new democratic forces, which had never belonged to the party or left it, proved unable to unite into a coherent political force, leaving the field clear for the party to regain its position. Communist Party representation in both the Soviet and Russian Federation parliaments is now noticeably stronger than it was six months ago.

Today's plenum follows a series of aggressive statements by senior party officials in recent weeks. Boris Yeltsin, the head of the Leningrad party organisation, who is a member of the politburo and regarded as leaning towards the conservatives, has accused the leadership and by implication Mr Gorbachev of acting against the party's interests.

Since then, two meetings of the party secretariat, chaired on a routine basis by Vladimir Ivashko, the deputy general-secretary, have criticised those who want the Communist Party to become "just another political party" rather than the vanguard party.

Some observers believe Mr Gorbachev will come under heavy pressure either to resign from his party post or to pledge that he will give it more of his time.

There is a common acknowledgement that the party still wields too much power to be left in the hands of anyone other than the president. Yet a promise from Mr Gorbachev that he would take a more active role in party affairs would imply a downgrading of the presidency that he has done so much to build up and could further damage his image abroad.

Terror choice, page 12

Lithuanian youth dies after being shot by troops

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN VILNIUS

TWO convoys of Soviet troops left the Lithuanian capital yesterday, as the recent death toll in the Baltic region rose to 20. Jonas Tautkus died after being shot in the head by Soviet troops at a military checkpoint on Monday night.

The shooting of the young Lithuanian, who had recently fled from the army, is compounding bitterness over Moscow's efforts to enforce conscription in a republic where it is almost universally loathed.

The soldiers had asked Mr Tautkus, and two friends with whom he was driving near Vilnius on Tuesday, to hand over documents. His companions presented their papers, which were in order, while Mr Tautkus apparently tried to drive away, fearing capture. Troops fired at him.

He was one of five conscripts who managed to escape in Riga last week after being seized in a batch of 30 Lithuanian draft-dodgers and sent to the Baltic military garrison in Latvia.

Colonel Algimantas Vaitkus, the deputy head of the republic's small defence forces, said that of the 12,000 or so Lithuanians who were due for conscription last autumn barely 1,500 had joined up of their own free will, and all but 400 of these had been ethnic Russians or Poles.

He said the vast majority of draft-dodgers were still at large, with the blessing of the Lithuanian government. He said many of those who did volunteer for service found that soldiers from the Baltic republics were subjected to such brutality that they soon tried to run away.

The soft-spoken colonel is in the odd position of liaising with Moscow about recruitment to the Soviet army while also helping to run local forces that would resist any assault by Soviet forces. These include several hundred volunteers, armed with shotguns and knives, who are camping inside parliament. All of them

had served in the army and many were veterans of Afghanistan, the colonel said.

"I would not put a gun into the hands of someone who did not have experience... and I do not understand how the Red Army can put guns into the hands of draft-dodgers who have resisted Soviet authority so strongly," he said.

In one of the most horrifying incidents in Lithuania, a youth was found by the roadside two weeks ago with a fractured spine after falling from an army lorry. He was one of 15 Vilnius youths, none of whom was eligible for the draft and all of whom were eventually released, who had been rounded up, beaten, forced to drink large quantities of spirits, bound hand and foot and taken to a barracks.

Kazimiera Prunskiene, the former Lithuanian prime minister, seen as a key figure in any move to ease the stand-off between Vilnius and Moscow, says she hopes to return in two weeks from Germany where she is raising money and campaigning for her republic.

Still angry about reports that she had sought political asylum in Switzerland, she said the source of these rumours was her former secretary who was apparently bitter about not being given a prestigious government job.



Prunskiene: intends to return home in two weeks

Czechs step carefully in purge of police informers

FROM CHRIS POMERY IN PRAGUE

A PURGE of the federal Czechoslovak parliament to oust members linked to the secret police force of the communist era, the Statne Bezpecnost (StB), will be completed by mid-February, according to Petr Toman, the spokesman for the special investigating committee.

The committee — empowered to investigate, identify and remove compromised parliamentarians — will report those who refuse to leave voluntarily to a closed session of parliament next month.

Though the vetting is presented as a moral issue, high-level collaboration touches fears that old forces, possibly in contact with Soviet counterparts, are still at work and former agents will be vulnerable to blackmail.

"There remains the danger of destabilisation of the political situation with any slow unveiling of agents," said Mr Toman, aged 28, a legal adviser to Civic Forum during the November 1989 revolution, suggesting that some political disagreements since then have been orchestrated. The scrutiny is symptomatic of Czechoslovakia's shaky

post-revolution atmosphere and deep-seated uncertainty as it searches for a fresh political path and a way to create a free-market economy after 42 years of communist rule. The committee will also cover senior government servants, presidential staff and the republican parliament.

Few quibble with the committee's secrecy — its sweeping extra-judicial powers and the lack of appeal for the accused — viewing vetting as a non-vindictive method of containing the problem. Those accused are given the chance to retire anonymously.

Such closed-door vetting may deny the resolution to the "velvet revolution" its advocates seek. Most communist party figures have not been barred from public office, in deference to international legal conventions disbarring discrimination. Nor has communism been outlawed. A committee investigating secret police links was disbanded last year after it was compromised.

The political waters are further muddied by carping by Vladimir Meciar, leader of the Slovak National Assembly in

Bratislava, who has refused to sanction vetting in Slovakia. The vetting will affect "more than a handful" of the almost 600 under investigation, Mr Toman says, and parliament is likely to extend it to lower government posts, the judiciary and the media. A register of former collaborators, estimated at about 100,000, could be computerised. Committee members are more concerned about the other area of their investigation, the true origins of the 1989 revolution. Any evidence of a communist or StB-organised coup attempt that failed would support present conspiracy theories.

"They all behave in a self-confident way," says Mr Toman, who co-ordinates questioning of alleged informers. "I cannot understand the psychology of people that act like this, to stay in parliament so brazenly. I can only assume they have been told by someone to behave like this. Some committee members have received death threats. 'Much worse is to come when the names of those that refuse to go are published,' predicts Mr Toman.

هكذا من لاجل



THE Prince of Wales and King Juan Carlos of Spain were among royal mourners at the funeral of King Olav of Norway. Silent crowds bade farewell to "the people's king" yesterday in a sombre procession through Oslo (Reuters reports).

King Olav, who died on January 17 aged 87, was laid to rest in the 14th-century Akershus castle after a funeral attended by royalty and political leaders from at least 100 countries. Among them were Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan, King Baudouin of Belgium, King Carl Gustaf of Sweden, ex-King Constantine of Greece, President von Weizsäcker of Germany and Gennadi

Yanayev, the Soviet vice-president. Dan Quayle, the US vice-president, arrived during the funeral to give condolences to King Harald, King Olav's only son.

About 3,000 troops with rifles lined the funeral route. Police imposed tight security because of Iraqi threats of guerrilla attacks. King Harald led the cortege behind the coffin as it was borne through the streets from the palace on a gun carriage.

The security would have shocked King Olav, who liked to wander in Oslo. Once asked if he was worried about walking alone, he said: "But I have four million bodyguards" — the population of Norway.

Hungary vote to join Nato political group

FROM ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

HUNGARY has become the first newly democratic nation in Eastern Europe to accept associate membership of the North Atlantic Council, the parliamentary arm of Nato.

The Hungarian parliament approved the step by an overwhelming majority, in a clear signal that Budapest, although still a nominal member of the Warsaw Pact, is mapping out an independent foreign policy after decades of domination by the Soviet Union.

However, the resolution states that Hungary intends to maintain its military neutrality and sovereignty and for the time being has no interest in becoming a full member of Nato's military structure. It will have no voting rights in the assembly, which groups all 16 Nato members and serves as a forum for discussion of Western security issues.

Hungary, for its part, bilateral military co-operation takes priority over lateral blocs, along the line of an agreement reached by Czechoslovakia this month, the free exchange of information.

The Hungarian foreign ministry says it would like to see agreements to be reached with the Soviet Union, while tussling with efforts to date all military blocs in Europe as part of a comprehensive security treaty for the continent.

STRASBOURG: Czechoslovakia's application to the 24-nation Council of Europe was approved unanimously yesterday, 14 months after the "velvet revolution" that deposed the communist rulers. Jiri Dzier, the Czechoslovak foreign minister, said members would be crucial to his country's plans for "political integration" with the European nations. (Reuters)

A NEW MOVING FORCE IS RELEASED



Leading the way in port privatisation

The ending of the Dock Labour Scheme and the encouragement of privatisation are two Government measures that are releasing the trust and municipal ports of the UK to exploit to the full their pent up energies, expertise and assets.

Those who choose the liberating road of privatisation will be ready to take their rightful place in the 1992 economic and commercial scene as dynamic, broad-based, integrated transport businesses.

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kind on the North East coast. With a drive into the wider distribution and transport business. With a strong property portfolio under active development.

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PUSILLANIMOUS PARTNERS

Britain's principal European partners, France and Germany, have both been thrown into turmoil by the Gulf war. The French defence minister, M Jean-Pierre Chevènement, has resigned from a government whose policy he had openly opposed for six months. Chancellor Kohl has abandoned his lukewarm attitude to the allied war effort and is offering an additional \$5.5 billion to America, as well as up to \$670 million of arms for Israel and a strengthening of the Luftwaffe's token squadron in Turkey. These reversals in French and German domestic politics have had consequences for the war. They are bound to have greater implications for the peace.

France has always pursued a policy of robust and sometimes sentimental nationalism by cynical means. While President Mitterrand was dispatching the aircraft carrier Clemenceau to the Gulf last August, his defence minister was advocating appeasement. On the eve of war, M Mitterrand deceived John Major about his intended peace initiative in a manner unparalleled in recent European history. As a mainstream socialist, M Chevènement gave respectability to the strange bedfellows who are united in opposition to the war: Georges Marchais's communist party and Jean-Marie Le Pen's national front. His departure was overdue.

As for Germany, there is palpable disappointment in Britain that the nation of Blücher, Moltke and Rommel now gives money to the American war effort only under duress. But the revision of Bonn's reluctant stance has been accomplished with commendable speed. Always quick to abandon untenable positions, Herr Kohl yesterday lectured his parliament to the effect that "there can be no safe little corner in world politics for us Germans". Tough measures have been announced against German firms which break sanctions to supply Iraq with new weapons.

Yet political reservations about the war, which both France and Germany have now

temporarily set aside, have not disappeared. Neither country likes to be seen to support American policy too readily, especially not the French. Both like trade too much to nourish quarrels with the Arab world. In the French case, this has contributed to a weakening in military commitment to the allied cause. Though some 10,000 French servicemen are now engaged in Saudi Arabia, the impression has been given that Paris is willing to wound but afraid to strike.

Britons and Americans should recognise the difficulties that Mitterrand and Herr Kohl have had in building a domestic consensus. American leadership has been an obstacle. The French have, perhaps, never fully recovered from Verdun. Sections of the French press have presented the war as an invitation to die "pour les autres". German inhibitions, even about sending jets to Turkey, are attributable to memories of Nazi terror, Allied bombing and Soviet invasion. Each country's history plays a part — and the conclusions drawn are understandable. Neither France nor Germany has won a war since 1918; the Germans at least have no desire to do so now.

Yet the retention of military force in the arsenal of international law-enforcement is essential to the collective security of which the German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is the leading present-day advocate. Clausewitz's famous insight on the purposes of war should not be thrown out with the bathwater of military chauvinism.

As the war approaches its climax, the attitude of the two principal continental powers is naturally colouring British views on the future of the European Community. Other EC states weigh lightly in the balance: whether Belgium sells Britain ammunition or not matters little to the cause of federalism. Whether France is seen to be prosecuting the war with conviction, whether Germany is seen to be treating its allies as more than mere mercenaries, matters a great deal. This war is proving a harsh moral test for European cohesion.

A BREED APART

When the Cabinet discusses the top salaries review body's recommendations today, ministers are likely to ponder the merits of 8 per cent versus 9 per cent, paid all at once, or in stages over the year. Ministers are pondering their own pay and that of their circle of advisers. There will be none of the savagery ministers are now willing on the private sector, to "squeeze inflation out of the economy" after the inflationary policies of the late 1980s. This is the moment of the year when public cynicism towards politicians reaches its deserved peak. A down-right freeze would be in order, setting a public example. But there will be none.

As they find words to justify their generosity to themselves, they should at least take the opportunity to think more radically about the structure of the public service. In particular, they should consider throwing far more of its myriad closed shops open to competition and to the risks and rewards that go with it.

The civil service fills most of its posts from its own ranks. Once there, people either stay for ever, or if they leave for the private sector, they tend to leave for good. There is no risk and rewards are commensurately low. Generous index-linked pensions ensure that the job really is for life. Yet except in certain professional categories such as the judiciary, the nature of the work is advisory, administrative and managerial, skills not appreciably different from those widely found in the private sector.

Most public servants see themselves as a breed apart, developing a culture that excludes outsiders; those who come into contact with it find an overgrown public school, riddled with archaic rules and regulations, some meant to protect probity and the public purse, others — such as the idea that nobody can be a real ambassador who has not been a diplomat since

university — merely silly. Where private-sector managers tempt the fringes, such as in the health service, they do so in insufficient numbers to change attitudes that send many screaming back whence they came.

For top civil service jobs, higher rewards should be exchanged for higher risk. Posts of under-secretary grade and above should be advertised, and opened equally to those in or outside the public service. They should be for fixed-term contracts, with pay comparable with the private sector. This is happening in local government and in a number of quangos (usually against Treasury opposition). The new chief executive of Liverpool is getting £285,000, more than a permanent secretary in the civil service. The City of London is rumoured to be offering about £100,000 for a new chief executive.

Britain should be developing the free-floating managerial elite that exists in France, capable of moving from public to private sector and back throughout a career. The makings of such an elite is being formed from the graduates of offshore business schools and company traineeships. But its members tend to gravitate to consultancy or banking rather than into management, let alone management in the public sector.

Over the past decade of booming private-sector jobs, the public sector has been in retreat. The cream of Oxbridge graduates have gone to business or the City, not into Whitehall. As the chart on another page shows, this is despite the relative buoyancy of public-sector salaries and the security of public-sector jobs. This has been no bad thing in theory: a public sector should not grab the best young people. But it does suggest that paying public servants more is not crucial. The nature of a job fashioned in an age of empire is losing its appeal. A good public service needs good people, and will get them best in an open shop in a free market.

RUNCIE THE RECONCILER

Defending the middle ground takes a peculiar and often unrecognised courage. Robert Runcie, who retires today after 11 years as the 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury, is a courageous man. His physical bravery was recognised years ago, with the award of the Military Cross for his gallantry in the Scots Guards. His moral courage in political battle has been questioned by his critics.

They have accused him of weak leadership of the church at a time of internal turmoil and secular radicalism. He is charged with vacillation, an eagerness to compromise, an aversion to clear-cut moral absolutes. He was indecisive in the debate on the ordination of women. He seemed mesmerised by the controversy over homosexual clergy and sat on a report he had commissioned. His centrism was seen as flannel. His moderation was seen as fudge.

Some of this criticism is true, but misses the point. Dr Runcie had the virtues as well as the vices of the archetypal wet in a Thatcherite age. He stood for tolerance, compassion and social responsibility when the nation seemed set on radical, uncompromising policies. His prickly relationship with Mrs Thatcher, the prime minister who appointed him, was epitomised in his refusal to celebrate a triumph at the thanksgiving service after the Falklands victory. The government had no time for his social liberalism. He had no sympathy for the selfishness that he saw in the social and political values of the 1980s.

Dr Runcie's overwhelming duty, as he saw it, was to hold the Church of England together. This he achieved. He did it only

just, and at a price, but he did it. If unity required procrastination on the ordination of women, he would delay. He struggled to avoid a split with the Anglican community overseas, especially with the American Episcopal church. Nor could he allow the conservatism of the Bishop of London and his fellow conservatives to mature into schism. He himself took time to make up his mind; he insisted the church do so too.

On homosexual clergy, his prevarication may have saved the Church from a witch-hunt. There is little doubt that his personal view was that homosexuality, though not a sin, was a handicap to a priest. His priority in dealing with the Bishop of Durham's doctrinal scepticism was to keep the debate within bounds. The motto of the cathedral school of St Albans, where he was bishop before his elevation, is *mediocra firma*, the firm middle ground, the middle way not the mediocre. He was resolute in its defence.

The contempt of those demanding more absolutism, socially, theologically, spiritually, took its toll on Dr Runcie. The nadir of his archiepiscopate was the affair of the preface to *Crockford's Clerical Directory* in 1987 and the suicide of Dr Gareth Bennett. From then on, anguish was etched on Dr Runcie's face, intensified by his own four-year suffering for the hostage Terry Waite. His final sermon last Sunday was true to his search for the middle way, between the conflicting demands of a just war and a Christian conscience. There are no easy answers, he insisted. He would not give glib guidance or comfort. Dr Runcie embodies the agony of honest doubt, honestly declared.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Doubts and dissent over British policies in the Gulf

From Mr David Sinclair

Sir, I am becoming increasingly alarmed by the parallels being drawn in Britain between the Gulf conflict and the 1939-45 war. Before hostilities began, the talk was of Saddam Hussein as a Hitler, of war crimes and Nuremberg trials, of the "Desert Rats" being deployed, and so on. Now the talk is of censorship, internment, the stifling of dissent, supporting "our boys", and we are hearing again such slogans as "Careless talk costs lives".

Worse, the xenophobia which is never far below the surface in this country is flourishing in the open, with even government ministers insulting European countries which, for their own considered reasons, have not made the same military commitment that Britain has.

Let us be clear. This is 1991, not 1940, and what is taking place is not total war but a cold-blooded punitive expedition against a state that is judged seriously to have breached international law. There is no question of national survival to be addressed, except for the people of Kuwait and Iraq. The lives of the rest of us have not been placed on a war footing, and we are perfectly entitled to question in the normal way the appropriateness and wisdom of the policies of our governments.

Expressing doubt or dissent in connection with the war does not imply disloyalty. In the same way, our governments have an obligation to keep us fully informed of their intentions as far as is possible without compromising military operations, and to seek our approval for their actions. The British may remember fondly "their finest hour", but that is history now. Please let us not pretend that the Gulf war is a replay. To do so is merely to reinforce the impression in other countries that we are more interested in our past than in our present.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SINCLAIR,
16 Markwick Terrace,
St Leonards, East Sussex.
January 26.

From Mr John Weatherill

Sir, The notion that the use by minorities of their freedom to oppose government actions in war, or events leading to war, is an abuse of that freedom (on the assumption that it plays into the enemy's hands), is an insidious notion, all too apt to gain strength in repetition. To give ground to it in the present situation would endanger the very principles of democracy, losing us a moral advantage over a tyrant.

In her letter of January 25, Lady Olga Maitland, chairman of Families for Defence, expounds this notion once again, and implies a slur on Air Commodore Alistair Mackie, deputy chairman of CMD, and on the 34 Labour MPs who voted against the motion supporting Britain's forces in the Gulf. "What would be gained," she asks (had sanctions been given more chance), "other than a respite for Saddam Hussein to build up his forces?"

Lady Olga's question should be judged in the light of a "status report" (originating from US government sources) in the January 21 issue of *Time*, listing the effects of sanctions over the five months and nine days preceding January 15. Two of its more cogent conclusions were that imports of industrial goods, raw materials, semi-finished goods and machinery had been reduced by more than 90 per cent, and that Iraq's military effectiveness would begin to decline in six to twelve months.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WEATHERILL,
Wylly Head, Kilmington,
Warminster, Wiltshire.
January 26.

Dealing with mines

From Rear-Admiral Guy F. Llardet

Sir, Mr W. T. Potter (January 24) questions the technique of destroying floating mines by helicopter diver and remotely-controlled explosive charge as seen in the Gulf on television recently.

This is in fact a safer and more sure procedure. Rifle fire as used in the Second World War can penetrate a mine and leave it waterlogged and invisible but still dangerous. In other than calm seas it is very difficult, and one has to get quite close. These alternative techniques have been thoroughly researched and provided for.

On a larger point, international convention requires the mooring switch of a moored mine to short-circuit the batteries and render inert

a mine that has broken its mooring wire and become a "drifter". These conventions are not being observed in the Gulf, it seems.

Yours etc.,
GUY LLARDET,
119 Encourt Road,
Fulham, SW6.
January 25.

From Mr Gordon Gutteridge

Sir, I would like to reinforce the point made by Mr W. T. Potter. The only occasion on which the risks he describes can be justified is if the mine is required for investigation as to how it functions.

Mines of this sort are usually laid in order to "fields" outside enemy harbours. A free-floating, horned, mine is almost certainly automatically inoperative and heroic efforts

to find one off from the bows of one's ship should belong to myth and the makers of epic films.

I was intimately involved in pulling enemy and friendly mines to pieces from 1941 to 1957. On one occasion a Grimsby trawler, not unusually, caught a German moored mine in its net. The enterprising skipper hauled it clear of the net and parked it safely on the afterdeck. Since he had been told that the horns were dangerous he knocked them all off with a sledgehammer, long before the naval mine-disposal party arrived.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON GUTTERIDGE,
Thatched Cottage, Pudding Lane,
Headbourne Worthy,
Winchester, Hampshire.
January 25.

Speaking for at least one of the tender consciences, I ask what measures our government is taking to anticipate the wholly foreseeable effects of destroying the utilities of a modern metropolis.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN KONSTAM,
9 Chapel Street,
Belmont, Bolton, Lancashire.
January 25.

From Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Eatham (Conservative)

Sir, May I add to the report (January 25) of the wildlife trust meeting at Oxleas Wood in Eatham. It should not be news that I praise public transport and that the approach road to the proposed east London bridge will be most damaging to the ancient wood. I said the same in 1983 and consistently during service at the Department of Transport.

At the trust gathering I also spoke in favour of the A3 road proposals which I considered would on balance enhance the Devil's Punchbowl, not detract from it. As usual, an independent inspector will hear the arguments and come to a conclusion.

In general that is a welcome part of the procedure. As minister, it was easier to achieve a higher importance for environmental issues. At Oxleas Wood, the decision was taken to favour the needs of Newham and Docklands. My constituency interest will suffer.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BOTTOMLEY
(Under-Secretary of State for Transport, 1986-9),
House of Commons.
January 25.

Presence in Prague

From Mr James Potts

Sir, Having served as Director of the British Council in Prague from 1986 to 1989, I was surprised to read in the letter from the Headmaster of Abingdon School (January 17) that the British Council "has only recently begun operations in Prague".

The council had a thriving operation in Prague, Bratislava and Brno between 1945 and 1950, and although our staff have worked from the British Embassy since the early 1960s it has been well known to most Czechs and Slovaks for many years that the Cultural Section Office in Jungmannova Street is in fact the British Council.

Even in the "bad old days" there were nine council-recruited lecturers and teacher trainers in key institutions throughout the country, and a number of school exchanges with Britain were established to supplement the summer courses in both countries and the highly-valued book presentations. The programme may have been relatively modest but it was cost-effective and warmly appreciated by teachers, researchers, translators of

English literature, university staff and dissidents.

I have just returned from a planning visit to Prague in connection with a major new British Council initiative which will help to develop teacher training, English teaching and access to British books and educational materials through five or six major projects. The number of our staff in Prague is increasing, and building on our long-established presence we are poised to make a major impact right across the country.

It may appear to some that these new initiatives have been slow in coming, but the planning phase has corresponded to Czech and Slovak needs. Other countries have perhaps acted more hastily, and a number of programmes have failed through the lack of careful planning and suitably qualified personnel. What the British Council needs now are bigger and better premises, and a decision on this is keenly awaited from the Czechoslovak government.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES POTTS (Head, East and Central Europe Department),
British Council,
10 Spring Gardens, SW1.
January 25.

Use of libraries

From Mrs Margaret Bark

Sir, It is probably true that increased funding to libraries leads to increased usage. It is almost certainly true that the converse is the case. Your report (January 25) quoted Haringey as having the second lowest lending rate among metropolitan areas. The reasons for this are probably that Haringey has consistently underfunded libraries over the last ten years, has the second lowest per capita spending level on libraries in London, and has severely reduced relatively serious proposals put forward by householders and small businessmen of modest means. The development proposed is often, however, of great importance to individuals and small firms. Frequenting its assessment by the planning authority has turned on an arguable weighing of the relevant planning considerations.

The costs of appeal are already high — there is no legal aid for planning appeals and enquiries. Unreasonable behaviour in connection with an enquiry can already be penalised by an order that the appellant pays part or all of the local planning authority's costs. Clause 24 should be deleted from the Bill.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BARK
(Chairman, Alexandra Park Library action group),
49 Thirlmere Road,
Muswell Hill, N10.
January 27.

Planning appeals

From Mr John D. Dagg

Sir, Mr Tom Berman (January 24) finds it amusing that the lawyers protest too much in connection with the proposed clause 24 of the Planning and Compensation Bill. He has no sympathy for "developers", their planning applications and their desire to challenge refusals of permission at enquiry.

Mr Berman has a distorted view of "developers" and development that is all too common. Very many appeals heard at enquiries concern relatively small-scale proposals put forward by householders and small businessmen of modest means. The development proposed is often, however, of great importance to individuals and small firms. Frequenting its assessment by the planning authority has turned on an arguable weighing of the relevant planning considerations.

The costs of appeal are already high — there is no legal aid for planning appeals and enquiries. Unreasonable behaviour in connection with an enquiry can already be penalised by an order that the appellant pays part or all of the local planning authority's costs. Clause 24 should be deleted from the Bill.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. DAGG,
Lamb Building, Temple, EC4.
January 27.

Spelling in exams

From Mr James S. Dimmock

Sir, The education secretary must become more objective in his desire to improve spelling standards but I feel that your readers are not helping.

Mr Dobson (January 22) appears to want only engineers who can spell at the expense of losing better engineers who cannot. With distinct examinations you could identify the mediocre engineer with, for example, excellent English or the brilliant engineer with poor English.

Mr Nutall (also January 22), on the other hand, would have us all bleached or blown-up for the sake of liberal spelling. It might not be too serious to spell "chloride" as "cloride", but does he consider the possible consequences of confusion between "chloride", "chlorite" or "chlorate"?

Technological spelling must be perfect, otherwise, for the sake of our aspiring youth, leave perfection in English to the English paper.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES S. DIMMOCK,
Riversdale, Widdowood Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.

From Dr Alan Cock

Sir, Mr Aidan Reynolds's hypothetical medical student (January 25) would very soon learn the vital difference between hypo- and hyper- and take appropriate precautions. Any ambiguity would be far more

Threat to nuclear research facility

From Dr Wilton N. Catford

Sir, The government's controlling body for physics research, the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), is threatening to withdraw its funding for British-based nuclear physics, thus closing the Daresbury Laboratory's nuclear structure facility in Cheshire and ending all fundamental nuclear physics research in this country (report, January 24).

Paradoxically, Britain is an acknowledged world leader in this field, and the country also benefits from the direct medical, environmental and industrial applications of the techniques developed in basic research.

The funding threat by SERC is made without any assessment of scientific merit or community benefits. It appears as though nuclear structure research has just ended up in the wrong column in the accounting books. The government should explain why the SERC is contemplating arbitrary decisions that would have a terminal effect on essential science, and should then make certain that the threatened coup to end basic nuclear research does not eventuate.

Yours faithfully,
W. N. CATFORD,
University of Surrey,
Department of Physics,
Guildford,
Surrey GU2 5XH.
January 25.

Oxleas Wood threat

From Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Eatham (Conservative)

Sir, May I add to the report (January 25) of the wildlife trust meeting at Oxleas Wood in Eatham. It should not be news that I praise public transport and that the approach road to the proposed east London bridge will be most damaging to the ancient wood. I said the same in 1983 and consistently during service at the Department of Transport.

At the trust gathering I also spoke in favour of the A3 road proposals which I considered would on balance enhance the Devil's Punchbowl, not detract from it. As usual, an independent inspector will hear the arguments and come to a conclusion.

In general that is a welcome part of the procedure. As minister, it was easier to achieve a higher importance for environmental issues. At Oxleas Wood, the decision was taken to favour the needs of Newham and Docklands. My constituency interest will suffer.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BOTTOMLEY
(Under-Secretary of State for Transport, 1986-9),
House of Commons.
January 25.

likely to arise from careless speech, or from the notoriously poor handwriting of many medical practitioners, than from vagaries of spelling.

The assertion that "you cannot separate spelling from meaning" is just another profoundly erroneous truism. In the huge majority of instances the writer's meaning is crystal clear despite deviations in spelling: as with most other languages, English orthography incorporates a high degree of redundancy.

Our present standard spelling is perhaps uniquely un-phonetic and replete with tricky irregularities. While we should encourage orthodox spelling, we should not seriously penalise those who do not follow every deviant quirk of conventionally "correct" spelling.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN COCK,
University of Southampton,
Department of Biology,
Building 44,
Southampton SO9 5NH.
January 26.

From Mr R. F. Kirk

Sir, further to the correspondence today place of spelling in examinations how about punctuation we always thought that it was a greater handicap to understanding why has Mr Clarke ignored this poor spelling should be regarded no more seriously than inadequate punctuation yours faithfully roger f kirk headmaster easingwold school easingwold wark January 25

Padding it out

From Professor Emeritus Philip Rhodes

Sir, Mutes and beams has not Matthew Parris in asking why the news always lasts half an hour (and moreover, January 28) blinded himself to the fact that journalists, even on *The Times*, pad out and cut their pieces to fill the space available?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP RHODES,
1 Wakerley Court, Wakerley,
Oxford, Leicestershire.

Cars v. trains

From the Reverend Geoffrey C. Lee

Sir, My brother Father Donald Bird (January 22) is right in asserting that God invented railways. Genesis 1:25: "And God created every creeping thing." Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY C. LEE,
63 Hotham Road, Putney, SW15.
January 26.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

How nature will lick the Gulf slick

Tiny microbes are already breaking down the hydrocarbons in Saddam's oil spill. Brian Ford explains how the purification process works

Humans have wrestled with oil spillages for a century. Other beings have tackled oil for hundreds of millions of years, and it is they, not we, who will rid the Gulf of its pollution.

Claims that the Gulf's ecology will be "destroyed for decades" take no account of the microscopic life forms for which oil is food and drink. What is more, they are likely to clean it up much more rapidly than predictions on television and in parliament suggest.

Birds, corals and coastal mammals such as the sea cow will, of course, suffer, but the slick now threatening Saudi Arabia's beaches is good news to forms of life we rarely stop to consider.

The Gulf teems with colonies of microbes. These bacteria and microscopic algae are the starting point in the food chains of the warm Gulf waters. Plankton feed on them, and it is the plankton that nurture the more familiar life forms that drive the marine communities.

The bacteria and microscopic algae reproduce and continually repopulate the sea water. Every one of these translucent bacteria is smaller than a red blood corpuscle and 200 of them would be needed to stretch a millimetre. They can double in number every hour or two. They abound in the Gulf simply because it is an enclosed sea.

Waste materials pouring in from the Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and Iran, are rich in raw materials, which the microbes recycle. Among the substances for which microbes have evolved are petrochemicals. Crude oil has seeped into the Gulf since it formed, and when microbes first developed a taste for petrochemicals mankind did not even exist.

The use by microbes of hydrocarbons as a source of food is not so different from the way higher forms of life use carbohydrates. Both are energy-rich compounds containing

carbon and hydrogen and both form water and carbon dioxide when broken down.

The organisms capable of producing the change are abundant in nature. The fresh earthy smell of a newly dug field is the odour of *actinomyces*, many species of which devour oil. *Mycobacterium* is best known as the genus of bacteria that causes tuberculosis or leprosy, but there are other species of *mycobacterium* that inhabit the soil and many of these degrade oil too.

Cladosporium lives so successfully in oil that aircraft have to be designed to keep it at bay or it will foul their fuel-tanks, while *desulfotomobium* is so active in oil wells it can eat through solid steel.

In these contexts, bacteria cause engineers practical problems, but they are merely doing the job they perform in nature — degrading oil and recycling it. Since the first drop of oil spilled from the Mina al-Ahmadi are these microbes have been at work, setting in train a huge reclamation process that dwarfs anything that human technology can achieve.

The reports warning that the ecosystem of the Gulf is at an end and that the shores are irredeemably damaged are not the first to paint a gloomy picture of mankind's assault on nature.

When the Torrey Canyon ran aground in 1967, the world was told that Cornwall's beaches were finished, that they would take 40 years to recover. Yet most of the beaches were clear by the end of that year.

There can be no direct comparison. The Atlantic approaches are stormy, so oil slicks are broken down, while the Gulf is enclosed. Warmer seas, however, could increase the growth of the microbes considerably and, as oil is a natural component of the Arabian seas, the right microbes may well be more readily available.

The Mina al-Ahmadi pollution is at least three times larger than the



Waiting for nature to clean-up: a US soldier reflected in oil on the beach near the Saudi/Kuwait border

Torrey Canyon spill. But experience tells us that the Gulf will recover, probably within three years. There was a huge oil spill there during the Iran-Iraq war, comparable in size to the present one, but its effects were not permanent. Even in the cold waters of Alaska, damaged by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, observers have been encouraged by the speed at which some areas have been cleaned by the natural microbe scavengers.

Experiments in Alaska have shown that recovery times can be halved by supplying fertilisers so that the growth rates of the microbes can be maximised. Specially bred bacteria, shipped out from Britain and the United States, may be used to speed up the process in the Gulf.

An additional benefit of microbial action is that it breaks down the toxic chemicals in crude oil, leaving minerals that nourish the sea grasses

on which the sea cow feeds. Sulphates, produced by the microbial breakdown of sulphur in the slick, will help plant life to re-establish itself.

There is a certain hope for a future in which such marvels of nature feed on war debris. When corn and fish have fed on microbes proliferating on the results of Saddam Hussein's environmental weaponry, perhaps we can give this unseen world its due.

The computer that reads your writing

Some machines may eventually work without the need for keyboards

Small notepad computers that do away with a keyboard by using an electronic tablet and a pen that recognises handwriting could be widely used during the next few years.

Although the idea is simple, variations in people's handwriting make the technology required extremely complicated. Manufacturers have been spurred on by a potentially huge market that they hope will introduce computers to millions of people who have never used them before.

Along with voice recognition, the ability to write in a way that a computer can understand would be in great demand if the technique can be made to work at a low enough price.

The current emphasis has been on using picture-based symbols to make the information displayed on screens look less disconcerting, but the new

and large amounts of computer memory are required in order to guess at what a whole word is, rather than just checking to see which character a user's squiggle most closely resembles.

But the demand is shown by a basic machine from Grid Computer Systems already on sale — described as a sort of electronic clipboard — which is finding favour with people needing to fill out forms, especially if they have to stand up or move around.

Customers in Britain include the West Yorkshire police, who use the computers for electronic data collection at the scene of a crime, and the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, which uses them to replace a paper form normally handwritten by the surgeon in the operating theatre.

For these specific uses the ability to use an electronic stylus to move symbols

Technology could become as easy to use as writing on a piece of a paper

around a screen, electronically tick a box or choose from a menu of options is as important as the ability to recognise handwriting. In Japan, Sony and Canon sell similar computers that will recognise carefully drawn characters. When the systems start to accept cursive writing, a development expected within three years, the industry predicts that such electronic notepads will become as common as appointments books or personal organisers.

The technique should appeal to those who are considered as pencil-and-paper-orientated and either unwilling or, if highly mobile, unable to use a keyboard.

Such computers could also become acceptable in situations such as business meetings, where the clicking keyboard of a laptop computer is intrusive.

Keyboards will still predominate, however, as they are far faster for many operations than writing out even an abbreviated command legibly.

MATTHEW MAY

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A gun for a hero

FOR CHILDREN
Brian Alderson

AK
By Peter Dickinson
Gollancz, £9.95

THE setting of *AK* is an imagined country — not a thousand miles from Nigeria — and the narrative intertwines the adventures of a boy-commando from the bush with a political saga of coup and counter-coup. Paul Kagami is the adopted son of freedom-fighter Michael Kagami, and when Michael is brought to power and then ousted, Paul seeks to become the agent of his release and, thereby, the liberator of Nagala itself.

In the first half of the book, Paul is very much at centre stage, maturing from tense apprentice-revolutionary to master of improvised strategies. With three companions (including, of course, a Resourceful Girl) he engages in a classic Journey of Escape, and if their adventures are more gripping than anything devised by Balzac, the *Brave*, then this is because of Dickinson's more refined command of psychological and physical realities. The best evidence is seen in the *AK* of the title: Paul Kagami's battle-gun, "the airborne model with the folding butt". You sense not only that Peter Dickinson could strip one of these down and reassemble it in about 20 seconds flat, but that Paul's relationship to the weapon is symbolic of the struggle at the heart of the book.

As the story progresses from the perils of the bush to the swarming chaos of metropolitan Dagonum, something of this intensity filters away. The life of the city-market takes over the drama of Paul's individual battle, and offers Dickinson the chance for some story-book manipulations that detract from the sharply authentic thrills of the earlier chapters.

In the final pages Dickinson's zest for realities reasserts itself through the device of the choose-yourself conclusion: "Twenty Years On, Perhaps: A and B". In each alternative the *AK* is still a central presence, symbolic of either power at rest or power rampant, and the reader's optimism will be severely taxed not to find a greater convincingness about tragic scenario B.

Hugh Barnes on the literary novelist who has gone off into the muddy sticks to put the world to serious rights

Country living for earnest

JEAN MORRIS



John Berger, Booker Prize winner, visionary or twerp, writer who has gone to find the secret of life with peasants in darkest Haute Savoie

John Berger's reputation as a writer is uncertain. His admirers claim he is a seer, a visionary, but according to his detractors, he's just a pretentious twerp. When *G*, a novel of conspicuous modernism and dubious merit, won the 1972 Booker Prize, the book itself was more or less forgotten in the brouhaha surrounding Berger's donation of half the prize money to the Black Panthers. The other half went towards his own research into a book about migrant workers.

Soon after the Booker fiasco Berger turned his back on England altogether, and went to live in a small peasant community in France. The planned book became three books, a trilogy entitled "Into Their Labours", which would evoke "the intricate movement from peasant society to metropolis". In 1979 Berger published the first instalment, *Pig Earth*, a collection of essays, poems and stories. Ten years later came *Once in Europe*, which portrayed the disintegration of rural life. Both volumes paid homage to Haute Savoie, the village that sparked Berger's imagination and impelled him towards this most high-minded and disastrous of projects.

Lilac and Flag concludes the trilogy. It tells the story of two lovers, Susus and Zsuzsa, who are forced to leave their mountainous village and go off in search of work in a fictional city called Troy. The departure is witnessed by an old woman, the narrator, who has seen countless young people set off for the "acropolis of wealth", never to return.

In some ways it's hardly surprising that Berger's characters appear as archetypes. Ever since the Romanticism, the idealisation of rural life has been a part of urban culture. People who live in the country grow accustomed to being misunderstood and transmogrified by townies. The most obvious example is "Resolution and Independence", in which Wordsworth asks the leech-gatherer about his philosophy of life, but is so excited by meeting a yokel that he forgets to listen to the answer.

Berger has the opposite problem. Of the writers who have tackled the historical elimination of peasant life, he may be the one whose quest has been conducted in the most deadly earnest. *Lilac and Flag*, however, is a restless and uneven work, in which it is possible to identify the conflict that has become a condition of Berger's writing. This conflict he

casts in the form of a struggle between peasant innocence and the dystopian values of Troy, a city overrun by gangsters with Homeric names like Diomedes and Nestor, but also revelling in Coca-Cola, computers and Crack.

A stern view of our decadent culture keeps Berger ticking over. Indeed he writes as if under permanent siege by a hated (but also beloved) enemy, who may at any moment break through his defences. And this sense of struggle with the monster of metropolitanism gives his writing, at its best, a tense urgency.

On a few rare occasions Berger really hits his stride and writes in this vital manner. At such times —

when the book suddenly comes alive, like a flame leaping out of an exhausted fire — the inert insufficiency of the surrounding text is brought into sharp relief. For example, Susus kills himself towards the end of the novel because he knows he will not return home. On the next page, however, he reappears marching up the gangplank of a mysterious white ship, and we are led to believe that this is the beginning of his life-after-death.

It is as if Berger had momentarily engaged with what he is writing. But the moment passes,

LILAC AND FLAG
By John Berger
Granta, £12.99

and he relapses into the state of slack detachment by which the book is ruled, a sort of automatic pilot mechanism. The plot wobbles about, and Berger's prose flirts between archaism and slang.

There is a problem of style. In *Lilac and Flag*, as if finding his own literary Manichaeism insufficient for the complexity of the task at hand, Berger abjures realism for a form of fantasy that would leave him open to charges of aestheticism, were not the book so unrelievedly dull.

Whereas *Pig Earth* and *Once in*

Europe managed to convey the exuberance and the hardship of life in a peasant community, the world of *Lilac and Flag* seems completely artificial. It is hard to believe in Troy or in any of the characters. The more one ponders the strange failure of this book about a subject with which Berger has dealt so clearly in the past, the more one begins to suspect that the trouble may be a lack of new ideas. Although nobody quite knows what John Berger has to say about the relationship between peasants and the international economic system, the reader of *Lilac and Flag* cannot help wondering if he hasn't said it already.

Sad black Prospero playing Caliban

PHILADELPHIA did not turn out to be a city of brotherly love. Nor, for Cudjoe, who is John Edgar Wideman's main character in *Philadelphia*, is it the hoped-for black Camelot. "Whites still outnumber us," he says, but there had been possibilities that "we might have half a chance to do our thing here, do it our way". He loves the idea of the city, loves its hugeness and its power, but set against this ideal is the reality.

In 1985 police bombed and burnt a house in Osage Street, Philadelphia, because it was the headquarters of an Afrocentric, black to nature cult, thought by neighbours to be anti-social. Eleven people were killed, only one small boy escaping untraced into the wilderness of the city. This real life example of civic hatred becomes the focal point for Cudjoe's thoughts about himself and his past. He feels that by marrying and then leaving a white woman, later abandoning his native city to live on a Greek island, he is guilty of a double betrayal — "about blackness and about being a man". So he wants to return and seek out the child who escaped from Osage Street as a way of finding self and the past. Ideas of failed parenthood and failed friendship run steadily through his thoughts as he measures his achievements against his aspirations. He would like to have been Prospero, but sees himself as Caliban. The shifting images by which these feelings are described make Wideman's novel disconcerting at times, but never dull. He writes with real passion and excitement.

Smaller and more local passions run through Dulan Barber's picture of a middle-aged woman living in Berkshire, *A World Without Wool Shops*. Dolly Sharkey, recently separated from her husband, goes to set up a new life for herself in the country and to meet the challenge of new routines, new friends. It is as if, being single again, she must approach the issues of the 1980s

from a different angle. They are demanding issues. Her husband Marcus has decided he is homosexual, and is grappling both in private and public with the reality of Aids. Her daughter is taking part in a play at a peace festival at Greenham Common, and her friends are urging her to join CND. But Dolly does not want to. She does not want, she says "to be put into a bag with people towards whom I feel an antipathy, just because we have one common end". It is not clear whether we are meant to sympathise with this. Is a person's individuality threatened by taking part in such activities? Is the peace march just another form of aggression? Perhaps it is easy to be a victim and easy to be bossy. The question is how to avoid being either.

Zoe Fairbairns's three sisters described humorously as *Daddy's Girls* ask similar questions, but they answer them too, and fully. The first, Christine, is young enough at the time of the Cuba crisis to be forcibly prevented by her father from going on an Aldermaston march. Janet, growing up into a safer and more prosperous time, wants always to please her father, to be as unlike her older, rebellious sister as possible. This brings a different sort of insecurity. She falls victim to a more acquisitive society and to a marriage that requires constant keeping up. Only Miranda, the third and youngest sister, is clever enough to understand the nature of manipulation and to make a stand against it. Reaching the age of 16 just as Mrs Thatcher is swinging into action, she knows what power is about, and it is she who tries to guide her mother out of a demeaning marriage into self-reliance. The teenage years of each sister coincide with different values and styles, which Zoe Fairbairns has caught with delicacy. The saga moves slowly, but it provides a steady framework for the author's study of the telling details of domestic conversations.

Anne Barnes

PHILADELPHIA FIRE
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THE TIMES

Blanche with cannibal

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

DEAD MEAT

By Trevor Barnes
New English Library, £13.95

DETECTIVE Superintendent Blanche Hampton, unhappy in her personal life, frustrated in her professional ambitions by male resistance to clever women cops, is under pressure from on high to solve a series of mutilation killings of young women. The reader soon knows the psychopath's identity. A solicitor by day, in the evenings he meets his dates, strangles them and cuts off bits of their flesh. Hampton, for a long time on the wrong track, eventually closes in and learns, horrifyingly, that she already knows the psycho. Blanche Hampton is a heroine with failings and hangups galore: she's human, and never boring. Her assistant, incidentally, is black and gay — lots of minority marks for that.

● *Reasonable Doubt*, by Philip Friedman (*Headline* £13.95). If you liked Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent*, you will probably enjoy *Reasonable Doubt*. The similarities are too insistent to gloss over. *Reasonable Doubt* (two-word ambivalent legal concept titles are in vogue) is also a courtroom drama written by a lawyer about a lawyer, full of detailed yet not tedious pre-trial and trial procedures. It contains, of course, all the usual tricks and surprises of the genre. But *Presumed Innocent* had that extra initial twist, the lawyer in charge of the prosecution becoming the defendant. *Reasonable Doubt* has an equally ingenious device. A rich socialist pleads with lawyer Michael Ryan to defend her on a murder charge. She is alleged to have bashed her husband Ned's head in with a modern sculpture. Only, Ned is Michael's son, and the lawyer believes his daughter-in-law to be guilty. In addition, he's a provenly incompetent defence lawyer.

● *The Ivory Seal*, by Guy Stanley (*Bantam*, £12.99). Akari, a once respectable Tokyo journalist now reduced to working for the sleazebags, is hired by a rich young woman to find her disappeared mother. His digging, helped by a Brit sidekick, involves him with a dodgy religious order frequented by the missing ma, reveals a monstrous property fraud.

● *Club*, by Bill James (*Macmillan*, £12.95). Cops and villains belong to one family: they have more in common with each other than with anyone in the outside world. The message is not original, but James's books (*Club* is the seventh) give it a persuasive authenticity that no amount of intellectual argument can match. In *Club*, Assistant Chief Constable Iles's wife Sarah has just had a child. It might be the husband's, but equally the father could be Aston. Sarah's long-time criminal lover and obsession. Quietly, subtly, James is compiling a brilliant portrait of a society which few writers have penetrated.

● *The Great California Game*, by Jonathan Gash (*Century*, £12.99). There are exceptions, of course, but as a general rule characters in crime novels do not travel well, especially when they go to new places abroad. Even the excellent antiquies rogue Lovejoy (natural habitat East Anglia) has, I'm afraid, not made a happy transition to New York and American points west. He's too wide-eyed and naive, by nine-tenths (for instance, he's never heard of Greenwich Village or the Bronx, I ask you). Still, there's a lot of the usual exuberant antiquies activity. Lovejoy gets into Mob hands as a paid fake-spotter, a big scam is afoot, and it's all quite fast and entertaining. But come home, please.

● *The Last Coincidence*, by Robert Goldsborough (*Collins*, £12.95). Writing mysteries using someone else's characters and copying someone else's style is, I feel, a somewhat rum way to earn a crust, but Goldsborough keeps producing urbane Nero Wolfe stories, set in present times, but otherwise obeying all Rex Stout's habits and conventions. In this one, a nasty, sexually predatory playboy is done in. Wolfe and his right hand Archie Goodwin dig deeper into eccentric family secrets, and conduct a satisfyingly old-fashioned climactic meeting of all the suspects in the library. But Goldsborough — obviously a talented writer and plotter — ought to start his own line.

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Gross % P.A.
14.60
13.70

MAXIMISER Bonds
Gross % P.A.
14.60
13.70

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Gross % P.A.
14.60
13.70

MAXIMISER Bonds
Gross % P.A.
14.60
13.70

مركز الامم

BRIEFING

Adventure must wait

BERYL Bainbridge has become the latest casualty of the financial crisis facing the Liverpool Playhouse. Her play, *An Awfully Big Adventure*, which is based on an assistant stage manager at the theatre, was to have run there in March. But now the production has been called off because Frank Taylor, the High Court-appointed administrator of the Playhouse, has decided it is too expensive. Instead a new Francis Durbridge mystery starring Patrick Mower will run from March 11 to March 23, to be followed by a revival of Willy Russell's *Shirley Valentine*. Taylor is trying to find a way of paying off the theatre's £600,000 debts before the end of March.

Shore things

HARRISON Birtwistle's infamously violent reinterpretation of the venerable seaside show *Punch and Judy*—first staged at the Aldeburgh Festival 23 years ago—returns to the festival (June 7-23) this year. Birtwistle, who will conduct, is the featured composer, and will supply two new orchestral songs. Elsewhere in the fortnight, Britten's church parable, *Curlew River*, will be performed in tandem with the Japanese Noh play that inspired it, *Sumida-gawa*.

Young ideas

AFTER a year of encouraging young playwrights around Britain, the Royal Court/Marks and Spencer Young Writers Festival is celebrating its discovery of new writing talent. Starting today and running until March 2, members of the Royal Court Young People's Theatre will perform four short plays, three of which can be seen in one evening. There will also be a selection of rehearsed readings, workshops and playwriting days. In the past 15 years, the festival has discovered Hanif Kureishi, Winsome Pinnock and the late Andrea Dunbar.

Last chance...



Jasper Johns: divided views

OF THE two shows running at the Hayward Gallery (071-928 3144) since November, undoubtedly *The Drawings of Jasper Johns* has excited more debate. Opinion has been split between those who see Johns as one of the greatest (as well as most expensive) of living artists, and those for whom the show chronicles a steady decline from sensitive, slight beginnings into repetition and emptiness. Londoners and visitors have until Sunday to check for themselves. Those who do will also find an unconvincing pleasure in the quirky American photographs of Garry Winogrand, *Figments From the Real World*, which are showing upstairs.

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Geoff Brown reviews

The Grifters,
Kindergarten Cop,
Kickboxer 2 and
Daddy's Dyin' - Who's Got the Will?

In the Forties, when American movies needed shady characters spitting tough words and pounding mean streets, they turned to the novels of Raymond Chandler. Today, increasingly, Jim Thompson is their man. He died, neglected, in 1977, leaving some 29 novels, mostly devised for the lurid paperback trade. *The Kill-Off*, two years ago, offered a dingy, low-budget blast of the authentic Thompson nihilism. Now *The Grifters* (18, Warner West End, Screen on the Green) resurrects another novel, but with prestige trimmings. The production, mounted by Martin Scorsese, gleams with icy colour and elegance. Anjelica Huston, topped off with blonde hair, gives the kind of crafty, banked-down, button-holing performance that easily hooks Oscars. The tingling music is by Elmer Bernstein; the director is Britain's Stephen Frears: a hot property after the international success of *Dangerous Liaisons*.

The punchiest scenes in Donald Westlake's script come straight from the Thompson source, a yarn about the interlocked fates of three grifters (con artists). Take Huston's punishment at the hands of her Mob boss: a stomach blow, a teasing slug with oranges wrapped in a towel, and a ferocious burn, all executed with eerie poise and small talk.

Yet the film remains maddeningly short of cumulative drama. These grifters—the grandiose mother, swind son only 14 years younger, and sex-kitten girlfriend—shun the Los Angeles map, from drab apartment to racetrack to motel, forever eluding a social context that would help explain their behaviour. This may partly be due to post-production tinkering: several scenes, including mother and son at earlier ages, have now vanished. But Frears likes scrubbing away detail in the interests of style; at times he parades his benighted trio almost as participants in a Greek tragedy.

Aside from crippling the narrative, the disjointed mood of *The Grifters* frustrates the actors' hard work. Anjelica Huston, icy-faced, icy-voiced, dominates all her scenes as Lilly Dillon, betting-odds manipulator and jealous mother; Annette Bening, surely a rising star, bewitches as Myra, the mix of a girlfriend. But they remain hedged in: as much the victims of the film's erratic structure as John Cusack (stock between two rampaging ladies as Lilly's son, Roy). Plausible enough as a small-time trickster, Cusack seems far too much the patsy for audiences to fret over his fate.

Jim Thompson, to be sure, never cared tuppence for sympathetic characters: he viewed humanity as we might view cockroaches. Yet he caught the creatures' scurrying with precise background detail and psychological insight. Bereft of these, *The Grifters*—Frears' first film in America—is an impressive exercise in hardboiled stylistics, but a frozen, half-cooked drama.

Designer dead-beats

Anjelica Huston: "the kind of crafty, banked-down performance that hooks Oscars" in *The Grifters*

The last time we saw Arnold Schwarzenegger he was bursting every blood vessel rearing Mars from a dictator's grip in *Total Recall*. Now he comes before us reading A.A. Milne to a kindergarten class, accompanied by his pet ferret. Clearly, Arnie has been bitten by the same Hollywood bug previously responsible for sapping Tom Selleck's manliness in *Three Men and a Cradle*.

But the stakes are higher: instead of three mere mortals and one mewling infant, *Kindergarten Cop* (12, Empire) offers one muscle-sore superhero and 30 rambunctious children. They run him ragged, of course; he tames them, of course.

Schwarzenegger begins with subtle shades, and guns; the usual props of an ornery Los Angeles cop tracking a vicious drug-dealer. Then the bug bites: he shaves and goes undercover to protect the dealer's divorced wife and child, currently located in Oregon.

Enrolled as the kindergarten teacher, he conquers the tots with some police academy discipline, falls for the third-grade teacher's charms, weeps silent tears over broken homes, and throws himself into the school's daily round. Confine returns when the villain arrives to kidnap his child; in *Kindergarten Cop*, violence and sentimentality sit queasily side by side.

Teamed once again with Ivan Reitman, who directed him in *Twins*, Schwarzenegger pokes modest fun at his action-man image, though his frenzy of

helplessness when first faced with the tots is horribly overdone. This, alas, is the director's way: whatever the mood—sentimental, rude, blood-spattered—Reitman knows exactly how to bludgeon a scene to the ground. Elsewhere in the cast, Pamela Reed gives a plucky show as the cop's zany partner, crudely struck down with stomach flu. The children themselves have passed through the cuteness machine: spontaneity went thataway. This is very much a film in the current Hollywood mode: strident, tethered to a formula, a star vehicle derailed by hasty hands.

Two years ago, Jean Claude Van Damme—Belgian pretender to Schwarzenegger's crown—paraded his biceps in *Kickboxer*, a low-budget saga of blood, sweat and vengeance largely shot in Bangkok. It pleased enough video fans to warrant *Kickboxer 2* (18, Cannon Oxford Street), though Thailand and Van Damme are no longer part of the package. One Sasha Mitchell (a runt in comparison to Van Damme) takes the central role of David Sloan, tender-hearted brother of Van Damme's kickboxer, who incurred Bangkok's wrath by defeating a hulking brute called Tong Po.

The patry plot matters little: as does the acting, for all Peter Boyle's grimaces as a suspect sports promoter. The film's grist lies in the fights: hideous, slow-motion ballers of blood and spit, ripped lips and eyes, of faces pulverised by flying feet. The

director is Albert Pyun, a prolific provider of action tosh, once apprenticed to Kurosawa.

As a stage play, *Daddy's Dyin' - Who's Got the Will?* (12, Cannon Tottenham Court Road) ran for nearly two years in Los Angeles, though it never reached Broadway. In director Jack Fisk's modest screen transfer, you can still sniff the theatre in every entrance and exit of the frenetic Buford family, gathered in Texas round their father's bed.

Del Shores' salty regional dialogue contains a few lines worth a smile, though his characters are shunted too fast through the play's predictable pattern for the performers to advance much beyond caricature. Beau Bridges convinces as the boorish Orville, a child gone to seed without ever having become an adult; Beverly D'Angelo noisily plunges into the fray as Evalita, the black sheep, six times divorced. But the comedy never takes flight, the heart-warming stops after a few degrees.

If the current films born, consider the past. The smaller of the Barbican's two cinemas presently offers a season linked to the cinema's Childhood festival. *Panther Panchali* begins the cycle tomorrow; other films hail from the world's four corners, including Britain (*Hope and Glory*), the Soviet Union (*The Childhood of Maxim Gorky*), Sweden (*My Life As a Dog*), Taiwan (*Summer at Grandpa's*) and Iran (*The Runner*). Do not expect Shirley Temple: this is childhood from the art-house perspective. But there is much enchantment.

FESTIVAL: STUDENT FILMS

Practicalities and the personal path

Geoff Brown on whether film schools instil appreciation of cinema along with technique

Hammersmith's Riverside Studios tomorrow play host once more to the fruits of the world's film schools. Delicacies from America, Jamaica, Italy, France, Ireland and Bulgaria, plus the crop of 39 British establishments, form the core of the third BP Expo, an entirely welcome eight-day bonanza of student film and video sponsored by British Petroleum. Rising local talents such as Thaddeus O'Sullivan and Philip Ridley, plus established luminaries (Stephen Frears, John Boorman), will discuss their work and the problems of careers in the industry. This is a festival about making connections, getting ahead.

British film schools share the event's practical orientation, although not, perhaps, to the ruthless degree of some American schools, whose graduate roll-calls range from cinema's big-wigs (Coppola, Scorsese) to Amy Heckerling, director of *Look Who's Talking*. Yet goals remain the same. Students at Britain's colleges, polytechnics and the National Film and Television School do not spend their time absorbing the lessons of the masters; they get job training, geared towards the industry's demands and constraints.

Look at the prospectus of the School of Film and Television at London's Royal College of Art. For the first part of their two-year course, filmmaking students cut their teeth on advertising films and pop promos. Emboldened by the battery of tricks thus acquired, they progress the following year to documentary and narrative films.

Other courses concern animation, design, plus the financial and entrepreneurial skills required by low-budget production. In British film schools, technique is paramount; the art's history—now almost a hundred years—gets squeezed into a corner.

Practical training remains crucial: this is what the schools were designed and equipped for. Yet in an art form driven so much by consumer demands and the lure of fashion, the benefit of a wider curriculum embracing film history becomes all the more important. We need filmmakers whose qualifications stretch far beyond a master's degree in late 20th-century visual dazzle. We need directors sensitive to cinema's many traditions, not stuck in the rut of one current style; we need people who have absorbed the craftsmanship and wisdom of the ages, but can still force their own individual paths.

Education supposedly stimulates curiosity, yet many British film students restrict their knowledge of cinema's past to current cult favourites or the Establishment's Top 10. Imagine a music composition student who knew only *Bohème*, the 1812 overture, and Beethoven's Fifth. There is a jungle of celluloid out there to explore and digest: eccentric Russian comedies of the 1920s; B-

movie jewels from Hollywood's conveyor belt; sublime flights of Japanese fancy by directors other than Kurosawa; the films of Guru Dutt, mongrel offsprings of art-house yearnings and Indian commercial formulae. To get the best from the past, a historical sense has to be engendered, students in a hurry to be the next Steven Spielberg or Ridley Scott have neither the time nor patience.

Film courses within a university framework reverse the balance: there is little, if any, practical component, but lashings of history. You may pursue your own research areas, or plunge into the thorniest thickets of theory. At Warwick, you can battle with "Issues of Representation". Kent tackles "Sexual Difference and Cinema". East Anglia offers "Structuralist and Post-Structuralist Film Theory". Worthy subjects all for exercising the brain matter, though the end product of the course can easily be just another academic, good for nothing but spouting words. This does little for film culture in general.

Some schools at least make fleeting stabs at film history and appreciation. The National Film

Lain Glen in David Hayman's *Silent Screams*, to be screened on Wednesday

and Television School has mounted masterclass analyses of *Seven Samurai*, *My Darling Clementine*, and other textbook classics. But these only scratch the surface of cinema's range, and without a sympathetic context the sessions can easily become sterile classroom exercises, forced upon sceptical students anxious to get back to their Bolex cameras and editing tables.

However their courses are structured, film schools cannot give the aspiring director everything. Most of the art's founding fathers had no film school to go to—the Soviet Union's State School of Cinematography, founded in 1919, was unique for many years. People like Griffith, Ford and Renoir brought to the industry a fresh eye and a passion for discovery that can hardly be recaptured as cinema nears its centenary. Yet if film schools encouraged students to think more about the past and less about the present frenzy, cinema's prospects for the century ahead could well be much brighter.

BP Expo, Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, London W6, (081-748 3354) February 1-8

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(*including full bonus)

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CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily. Includes overnight news from the Gulf 9.25 Schools
- 12.00 Channel 4 News
- 12.05 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron
- 1.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news and comment
- 1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
- 2.00 That's Entertaining. Richard Cawley takes the work and worry out of entertaining, and shows fashion student Pamela Anderson how to create a tasty birthday meal for her boyfriend, taking into account the limitations of a student grant, an ill-equipped kitchen and a tendency to burn everything (T) (Teletext)
- 2.30 Equinox: Spytech. The excellent science and technology series looks at the implications of high-tech espionage (T). (Teletext)
- 3.30 Land of Hope. Episode four of the stormy ten-part saga following the lives of an Irish-Australian working-class family from the end of the last century to the Seventies (T)
- 4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley hosts the long-running words and numbers show, assisted by Martin Jarvis in the dictionary corner
- 5.00 The Adventures of Tintin. Episode six of *The Treasure of Rackham the Red* (T)
- 5.05 The Great Wyr Hay Show. Can women be bosses without being bitchy? Oprah let out when she meets writer Jackie Collins. Essence magazine editor Susan Taylor and Countess Diana Von Furstenberg, queen of her own fashion empire
- 6.00 Kate & Allie. Kate, a Sixties free spirit and Allie, a staid traditionalist, find themselves divorced, living in New York and with families to cope with. The solution to their predicament is to merge the two households. Starring Susan Saint James and Jane Curtin (T)
- 6.30 Desmond's. Comedy series set in a Pockham barber shop which cleverly contrasts the lifestyles of today's black Britons (T). (Teletext)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext)
- 7.50 Comment followed by Weather
- 8.00 Class by Class: The Miner's Tale. Ray Gosling's wry examination of the British class system since the second world war visits the Welsh valleys, one of the last great heartlands of working-class culture in Britain. As the pits and factories close, Ray Morgan and his family from Ebbw Vale debate how much longer working class



8.30 Film: Convicted – A Mother's Story (1987). A powerful, made-for-television drama starring Ann Jillian as a single mother who steals \$10,000 from her workplace for her shady boyfriend, Kael Martin. When he absconds, she is sent to jail. Her time behind bars is tough, although her supportive sister takes care of the children. But she her troubles are not over when she regains her freedom – her crooked boyfriend returns and she has to contend with an unfriendly bunch of neighbours. With Gloria Loring, Fred Savage and Christa Denton. Directed by Richard T. Heffron



Kingdom under threat: Ben Todd and prize harem (10.30-11.00)

10.20 True Stories: Kirby's Kingdom.
c CHOICE: This is an affectionate portrait of a former council columnist, Ron Todd, who has created a home for more than 300 ducks and birds on half an acre of land owned by his aunt near the lush Vancouver area town of Kirbyville. A shy, middle-aged man, who tends to communicate in grunts rather than words or sentences, Ron also grows flowers and vegetables and competes mercilessly at the shows. In a film as unhumored as the way of life it portrays, the Canadian-born director Harnet Pasco follows a year in the life of "Ron's ranch" from spring through summer and winter and back to spring, punctuated by a gap during the autumn when Ron has to go into hospital. The venture barely pays for itself and with developers wanting to cut through the land to build an access road to a housing estate, Ron's kingdom is looking increasingly precarious.

11.35 A Week in Politics – Late Sitting. A discussion by the veteran MP's Denis Healey and Sir David Steel on how Britain is financing itself in the Gulf. Plus Labour's former spokesman Martin Williams on Britain's changing roles in the Gulf war and Jeffrey Archer on his role as Mrs Thatcher's literary agent. Incorporates *Channel 4 News*. Ends at 2.00.

Miracshi benefit: three-year-old Ruth O'Brien (8-30pm)

0.10 Small Objects of Desire: False Teeth.
 ● CHOICE: It seems that dentures, currently worn by one-third of adult Britons, may eventually become redundant as we acquire the ability to grow our own new sets of teeth. Meanwhile the history of false teeth offers plenty of interesting material of which this bright little film makes full use. The tone is established by a set of choppers in a glass of water sitting in Alan Bennett's mouth about twenty-eight hours before the dentist that day. The ensuing discourse brings in Elizabeth I and Oscar Wilde, mixes anecdote with social history and offers a barrage of fascinating facts. Visual aids include toothpaste advertisements, Monty Python-type animation and film clips going back to 1912. Perhaps we should not believe everything we are told. The claim that the American doctrine of separation of powers stemming from George Washington's embarrassment over his dentures seems suspect to say the least. (Cortex)

0.20 Newswatch presented by Peter Snow

0.20 The Late Show: Arts and media magazine

0.20 Weather

0.05pm Weekend Outlook. A preview of the weekend's Open

Chris Christie, Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland (11:16pm)
 **CHOICE: Nicolas Roeg is an infuriating director whose
 ambitious talent can easily spill over into pretentiousness but
 he does start to get his groove on the results are tremendous. Don't
 Look Now, the occult thriller plays from a short story by Daphne
 du Maurier, is the most accessible film and arguably his most
 successful. Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland play a married
 couple whose young daughter is drowned. They go to Venice to
 get over the tragedy and are tantalised by suggestions that the
 dead may still be alive. Roeg's minimalist style, helped by piercing
 music, is a witty Venice, more subtle than the usual Venice
 narrative that grips from the start and sustains its hold right
 through to an explosive climax. Even the film's most notorious
 sequence, a boldly shot love scene between Christie and
 Sutherland, is thematically valid and perfectly integrated.

GRANADA
in London

ANGELA
As London except: 6:00pm Home and
Guesse 7:25-7:30 Angela News 10:55
Rearrange 11:25 Videoplane 11:55
Crest 12:00 Crest 12:05 1:50 Star
Sundays 2:45-5:00 Film: Penny by Galsberg

BORDER
As London except: 1:50pm-2:30 News and
Sundays 6:00 Lookaround 7:00
Sundays 7:00 News 10:55 Front Call Back
12:00 Hoopmen 12:25 Matted 1:20
Sundays 1:45 News 1:55 Frontiers
2:45-5:00 Home 4:00 Jobbird

CENTRAL
As London except: 8:00pm Home
and News 9:25 Central News 9:55-7:00 Police
0.55 Central News 10:55
commercials 11:50 Jato and the Peltan
commercials 12:00
2:30-2:45 Video View 01:50 The New Avengers
commercials 3:00-3:15
3:20-5:00 Matted Jobbird '91

GRAMPAN
As London except: 1:50pm-2:30 News and
Sundays 6:00 North Tonight 6:50-7:00
News 7:00-7:10 News 7:15
commercials 7:20-7:30 News 7:35
at 12:00 Alibi 12:25pm Matted 1:20
Sundays 1:45 News 1:55 Central
commercials 2:45 News 3:20 Night Fight 4:45-5:00
12:00

AWAY 6:30-7:00 News Tonight 10:55
Sundays 12:00-12:10 12:10-12:20
News 12:25-12:30 News 12:35-12:45
News 1:30-1:45 News 1:45-1:55
News 2:45-3:00 Jobbird

WTV WEST
As London except: 1:50pm-2:30
The Young Doctors 3:25-4:00 News and Daugh-
ters 4:00-4:10 TV News 6:30-6:40
11:55 The West Week 11:40
12:00 Matted 12:10 News 12:15 News in Mid-
west 12:20 News 12:25 News
Night 1:15 Video View 3:45-5:00 Bedrock 1:10

WTV WALES
As TSW-Wales except: 6:00pm-6:30 Wales
on 11:30-11:45 Wales & Westminster 10:40
Wales 10:45 News 11:10-11:40 Coming at 9

TSW
As London except: 6:00pm TSW Today
6:30-7:00 Stockmarkets 10:55 Tonight
& Groove 11:25 Film: The Wives Lady 1:15
and 1:20 The Football 1:30-1:40 At-
tention 3:45 Night News 4:45-5:00 Matted 1:20

TVS
As London except: 1:50pm-2:30
The Young Doctors 3:25-4:00 News and Daugh-
ters 4:00 Coast to Coast 8:30-7:00 News

[illegible]

SKY ONE

● **Via the Astra and Marciopolo satellites**

8.00am The DJ Kar Show 6.00 Live
Popsport 8.10 Jockpot 9.30 Hunk's A Lucy
Lacey Video Your Round 10.30 The Youth
Dance 11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful
11.30 The Young and the Restless 12.30am
The Young and the Restless 1.00 The
1.30 Another World 2.20 Loving 2.45 Wife of
the Week 3.15 Bewitched 6.40 The DJ Kar
Show 7.00 Live in Space 8.00 Family Tree
6.30 Sale of the Century 7.00 Lives at First
Sight 7.30 Live in Living Circle 8.00 The
DJ Kar Show 8.30 Live in Space 8.50
Live at First Sight 10.50 Night Court 11.00
Outer Limits 12.00 The Unbelievable
Horse Show 1.00 News 1.30 The Tonight
Show As the Aceshew Party. First day of the first
West Point

SKY NEWS

● **Via the Astra and Marciopolo satellites**

● The following schedule may be subject to alteration.

Hours on the hour

5.00pm International Sports Bureau 5.30
European Business Television Bureau 5.30
Beyond 2000 11.00 Today's Business

6.00 Last Plans Out (1983) A journalist is
caught up in the Contra-Sandinista conflict.
7.40 Exhumation Montage
8.00 Johnny B Good (1988) A high school
football ace (Anthony Michael Hall) finds
himself in command
8.40 Project
10.00 Cate's Eye (1988) A biogey of terror
from Stephen King. Starring Drew Barrymore
and Anthony Quinn
11.38 Tomorrow USA (1979) A nostalgic look
back at American teenage life in the
1950s
1.05am Death House (1987) While
investigating in northern California, a young
man uncovers a sinister plot involving
2.25 Nightmares (1987) When a group of
Central American refugees kidnaps a U.S.
soldier, his friends, Lance Riser and friends,
go to his rescue
4.00 The Fear (1988) A journalist (Ryano
Reynolds) must unravel a deadly conspiracy
of the world's largest gambling; Ends at 8.30

EUROSPORT

● **Via the Astra satellite.**

A 30min Eurosport 8.00 Sky One 7.50
Euroscis 8.00 Volleyball 8.00 Biathlon Women's
Championships 10.30 Junior Speedway
Championships 11.00 Ladies' Figure Skating
on Ice 1.00pm Figure Skating 2.30am
Euroscis 3.00 World Swimming Championships
10.00m Final 4.00m Eurosport 4.30
Motul One MotoGP Sprint 5.45 Eurosport

[illegible]

6.55am Weather; News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert. Vivadi
(Concerto in G minor, RV 315:
Gualdrig String Ensemble);
Gardner (Moly on the Rocks:
Gardner Quintet Sanjotepa);
Gershwin (Summertime: New
Princess Theatre Orchestra);
Henderson (Pastoral d'été:
Bavaria RSO)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont):
1.50am The Piano (Overture, Die
Fledermaus: Vienna
Philharmonic); Handel (Organ
Concerto in F, HWV 205
Concertino); Jaquequin
(Chant des oiseaux: Ensemble
Métier); Messager (Suite,
Les deux Pigeons: Orchestra
du Capitole)
5.30 News
5.35 Composers of the Week:
Mozart's 250th year 1789-93
Richard Quantz in d. K 593,
Cottl Jan Lute, K 588, Scenes
from Act 2
9.35 A Morning in Meiningen:
Mozart (John Antono,
Introduction: Frankfurt RSO
under Magali: J. C. Bach (Das
Fräulein North
German Instrumental
Ensemble under John
Gronostsky); C.F. Bach (The
Guerlet in B flat -
first movement); Jillocree
Quartet members; Bellow, arr
Liszt (Mozart-Fantasy);
Bavaria RSO, Philharmonic
Symphony Orchestra under
Tadeusz Strugielski; Bavaria
RSO and Choruz under
Hartmut Strauss (Piano
Quintet in e minor, Op 16);
Hartmut Strauss and Fugue
of a Theme of Mozart, Op
132: Dresden State Orchestra
under Hans Bongartz)
1.25am The Wai Wah 300 under Louis
Frémus, with Pascal Rogé,
piano, piano: Piano Company
(The Goose; Piano Concerto
No 6); Tashiro-Tokyo (Symphony
No 4 in F minor, Interval, Reading
1.00am
1.05 Birmingham Lurchtime
Concert: Live from Rabbie Hall,
Ecclel by the pianist
Reynold Goode. From Wend in
the Bamboo Grove to Cha,
Cha, Cha
2.00 Mozart on Record. The Early
Symphonies. In the first at a
monthly session, Leo Black
examines the symphonies
composed by Mozart in his
late teens

3.00 Mozart and a Contemporary:
An operatic double bill. Franz
Liszt CO under Leppard
performs Bastien und
Tatjana, a short opera. In one
act, composed by Mozart at
the age of 12. With Edita
Gruberova, soprano, and
Bastienne, and Vinson Cole,
tenor, as Bastien. Sung in
German
3.45 Don Giovanni
3.55 CH-ORCE: No, not Mozart's
version, but the one written in
the same year - 1787 - by
the famous-forgetful Giuseppe
Gazzanone, to Giovanni
Berlatti's libretto. It's a new
recording, Stefan
Kunze conducting the Munich Radio
Orchestra, with John Alar (as
the Don) and Eva Steinsky
and Pamela Cook as the
Anna and Elvira, No Leporello
in this version. Instead, there's
Pasqualello, who is, however,
referred to as a master. Bastien for
De Ponili's celebrated
mischief-maker, Mozart's Don,
from the Vienna State Opera,
is substituted on Radio 3 on
Saturday night
5.30 Manly for Pleasure 7.00 News
7.05 and Ear-Music
5.30 BBC Welsh 300 under Richard
Hickox performs Mozart
(Symphony No 40, The Impresario);
Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 4
in G, Op 58), 8.10 The
Bachman New, Picturesque
and letters by the Welsh poet Alan
Lewis, who was posted to
India and Burma during the
second world war
Menzel (Variations); Mozart:
(Symphony No 41 in C, K 551)
Deen Hartmann and his Longford
Pittsburg Ensemble
A leading figure in literary Dublin
and a friend of Jonathan Swift,
William Butler Yeats. The first
of three readings from
Pillarion's memoirs,
published in 1748
9.45 Mozart in Our Times. Recent
electro-acoustic music,
Dionotti (Chacacuro); Celon
(Le Département); Bayle (Mozart
Emotion)
11.00 The Honky-Tonk Man (r)
11.30 News
11.35 12.35am Composers of the
Week, Charpentier (r)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only)
(except in Scotland)
2.55-10.55am Test Match Special
(FM only); Australia v
England. The first day of the
first Test from Perth

RADAR

FM: Most scheduled programmes will be suspended to give news of the Gulf war.

The following schedule, on MW and LW, is subject to alteration:

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day (a) 9.30 Today (b) 9.40 News 10.00 10.30 News 6.55, 7.55, 8.58 Weather

1.00 PM 1.50 Shipping Forecast 2.05 **Fact The Facts**

2.30 The Power of Patronage: The Great and the Good. Robin Williams, political editor of The Times, presents the first in a five-part series investigating patronage in public life. How much, and how accountable, are the 50,000 public appointments made in Britain by the prime minister and his government?

4.00 News: The Natural History Programme: The Search and the Hunt

4.45 An Act of Worship

5.00 News: Citizens

5.25 The Cuscuta Mills Woodbridge talks to F.W. de Klerk, the president of South Africa, about the battle which has cost him his political career

5.50 First Person: Judy Kendall pleads guilty to fly-tipping

6.00 News Today and You

6.25pm Dear Diary (r) 12.55 Weather

6.40 On the Airline (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

6.00 News: Women's Hour: a discussion on women's magazines and cigarette advertisements, an interview with the editor of the *Woman's Hour* magazine on horror films, and an interview with Eddie Daniels, who was imprisoned with Robert Kennedy

7.00-4.00 Prime Minister's Questions (FM only)

7.00 News: Aztec (FM only)

7.15 The Romantic Roman: LW only: A comedy by Ayshe Rat

8.00 News

8.05 Bookchat: Presented by Nigel Farver. Anna Brooker examines the influence on her writing of the books in her Chinese home

4.30 The Book of the Week: Brian Cox is the studio guest, talking about his new autobiography, *From Salem to Moscow: a journey of Radio 3's *Notes from Jacob's Ladder - a review of the Alan Plater play, *I Thought I Heard a Rustling*, and a look at Bloomberg's 'zip' paperback book which includes some controversial American writing**

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 **Weather**

6.00 Six O'Clock News: Financial Report

6.30 An Act in Colour: The comedy team with songs and sketches (r)

7.00 News 7.15 The Archers

7.25 Soundtrack: On the Out

8.00 CHOICE: Out on parole, John Williams, senior newsreader by a literary agent that he had not led a lyrical life and that his prison journals should not give the impression of a man who had serious new sentences, against his youth in children's home or being fostered out only recently said the ghost of the young girl he believed could have hushed his homosexuality. On the Out charts his difficult adjustment to freedom and his progress towards 'the strange sort of happiness' he finds in a cemetery. There is no commentary in this potentially honest account of a man shedding of a heavy load. None is needed

8.00 Analysis (new series): The Leader, David Hester, examines the British view of socialist origins and destructions

8.45 News: The Future

9.15 Kaleidoscope (broadcast at 4.30pm)

9.45 The World News Tonight and Weather

10.00 The Tonight Tonight

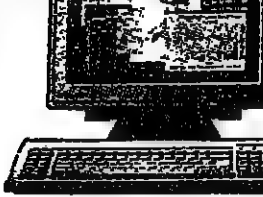
10.45 A Book At Bedtime: Stripped, by Dick Francis

11.00 An Act of Dead Man's Boots, by William Ingram

11.30 Today in Parliament

12.00-12.30am News and Weather Forecast 12.33 Shipping Forecast

EQUATIONS: Radio 1: 1053kHz/25m; 1089kHz/27m; FM 97.7, 98.8MHz; Radio 2: 89.90, 92.0, 94.0, 97.3, 121.94, 94.7m; FM 94.90, 97.3, 98.8MHz; Radio 3: 639kHz/433m; 509kHz/333m; World Service: MW 1049kHz/463m; Jazz FM 102.2 LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 106.7kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GULF: 1458kHz/236m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

[illegible]

The Sun SPARCstation IPC.

The Wall Street Journal recently ran a news item about workstations, saying that they are only used by scientific and technical people. Implying perhaps that common-or-garden PCs will suffice for us business/financial users.

At Morse, we have an additional news item. The new £6995 Sun Microsystems IPC brings boffin power to every desk. Running Lotus 1-2-3 and WordPerfect as well as super-powerful Unix software. Like FrameMaker. Uniplex. Interleaf. Informix. And the new presentation-quality WINGZ spreadsheet.

Morse also offer our optional Synergy 386 card. It plugs into the Sun IPC, letting it run DOS and UNIX programs side-by-side.

MORSE

**Morse Computers Ltd, 17 Sheen Lane,
London SW14. 081-876 0404.**

Central London Showroom: 78 High Holborn, W.C1. 071-831 0644.

Kremlin's sincerity doubted in Baltic pullout

FROM BRUCE CLARK
IN VILNIUS

SOME Soviet forces were withdrawing from the Baltic region yesterday, although there was some scepticism about the Kremlin's sincerity and confusion about which forces were affected.

Boris Pugo, the Soviet interior minister, said in an interview published yesterday that all the "army paratroopers" sent to the Baltic during the confrontation had been withdrawn on Monday.

He added that two-thirds of the extra interior ministry "peace-keeping" troops recently sent to the region had been pulled out on Tuesday, and "to judge by the way the situation is calming down, the remainder are by no means there for ever". Publication of Mr Pugo's comments in the daily *Rabochaya Tribuna* followed a claim by President Bush on Tuesday night to have received from Moscow "representations, which if fulfilled would result in the withdrawal of some Soviet forces" from the Baltic republics.

Vytautas Landbergis, the Lithuanian president, said: "If we see signs of a reduction in the Soviet military presence, this could be a good signal for talks." Lithuanian officials said there were signs of increased troop movements in the republic, but these did not necessarily amount to a withdrawal.

Baltic nationalists said that some of the paratroopers deployed in the region this month report to the KGB rather than the army, so they could technically be excluded from Mr Pugo's undertaking. Nor did his promise cover the Riga-based Black Beret commandos who were supposedly withdrawn to barracks after their seizure of the Latvian interior ministry 12 days ago, but have been seen on the streets this week.

Apart from troops specially deployed in the Baltic republics during the confrontation, all three host huge permanent garrisons. General Mikhail Moiseyev, the armed forces chief, said a month ago that the permanent garrison in Latvia might be reduced, but little has been heard since then.

Anatolijs Gorbunovs, the Latvian president, said yesterday that despite his good working relationship with local commanders, "no guarantees of their behaviour can be given because they act on orders".

Vitali Ignatenko, President Gorbachev's spokesman, said yesterday that the interior ministry and army "reinforcements" in the Baltic "have either left the region, or are about to do so".

Shot youth dies, page 11
Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 12



Endangered species: Stephen Rowe tries on a hat for style and size at the Islington, north London, branch of Dunn & Co, the gentlemen's outfitters. The hats have a timeless and long-lasting look but for Dunn & Co, established 1888, the future is less secure. The business has been put up for sale by the pensions fund which has owned the firm since its founder, the original

George Arthur Dunn, set up a trust to own the firm shortly before his death in 1939. In recent months the shops that were an unchanged part of Britain's High Streets have been "modernised" to look older. The frosted glass windows, which often depicted the coat-of-arms of the town, have disappeared; the shops now bear the name George Arthur Dunn rather than Dunn & Co. Bare wooden floors and mock gas lamps have replaced the tiled carpets. However, that £20 million modernisation scheme has not been enough to beat the recession. Ironically the business has been put up for sale just as the fashion industry is looking to older customers as the age profile of Britain moves towards the over-50s. Meanwhile for Dunn & Co it is business as usual.

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Kohl praises 'indispensable' Britain

FROM IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

BRITAIN'S contribution to European unity is indispensable, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said yesterday when he detailed his new government's programme to the Bundestag.

Urging the need to press ahead with European political and monetary union, he said that while Germany and France must be the driving force for this, "friendly relations between Britain and Germany are of



Kohl: signalled change in German attitudes

outstanding importance". The chancellor did not highlight Britain's role in this way since Margaret Thatcher was prime minister. His public recognition of Britain's importance underlines the change in German attitudes since John Major took over.

His new outlook is also a recognition of the fact that Britain's total involvement in the Gulf war has re-affirmed its leading position in the democratic world.

In this context, he underlined the need to develop a joint foreign and security policy within the community, including the long-term perspective of a joint European defence. "That means that we Germans must be ready as well for a greater involvement."

The countries of the community needed an efficient instrument for foreign policy to look after their responsibilities and make their interests in the world better recognised.

Herr Kohl devoted part of his speech to calling on President Gorbachev to give up the use of force against independence movements. The right of the Baltic countries to self-determination had to be guaranteed, he said, and peaceful solutions had to be found. Relations between Ger-

many and the Soviet Union were of central importance, he said, and there would be support for all that Moscow did to introduce reforms, democracy, human rights and a free market economy.

The chancellor said that German responsibility to find money for the Gulf and for helping develop Eastern Europe made tax increases almost inevitable. There was a need for more money than had so far been included in draft budgets and ways would have to be found to raise it. Herr Kohl emphasised the importance for Germany of completing the internal market by the end of next year and of achieving both economic and political union by 1994.

Herr Kohl explained that he wanted to see the European parliament given authority over electing the European Commission and over the EC budget. At the same time he said that national and regional parliaments would continue to be exclusively competent for those matters where they could best protect the rights of individual citizens.

He made plain, however, that he regards the European social charter, an independent central European bank and a common

currency "which does not offer stability inferior to the Deutschmark" as being crucial to the development of the community.

The chancellor said the community had to be ready to take in new members, first from countries in the European Free Trade Association and then from Eastern Europe. He believed ultimately in "the Europe of freedom, the United States of Europe".

Kohl's gift to Israel, page 4
Leading article, page 13

Hundreds of Iraqis die in land battle

Continued from page 1
casualties yesterday. Iraqi casualties were not known.

Allied commanders had been expecting the Iraqis to mount some form of raid across the border, but there were a number of theories as to what was behind the combined naval-ground action.

The possibility of a much larger offensive in the future to try and draw the allies into a premature land war was seen as one likely option being considered by the

Iraqi leader. "It may also be that the Iraqi high command was told to do something to help release the tension among the forces in the trenches," one source said.

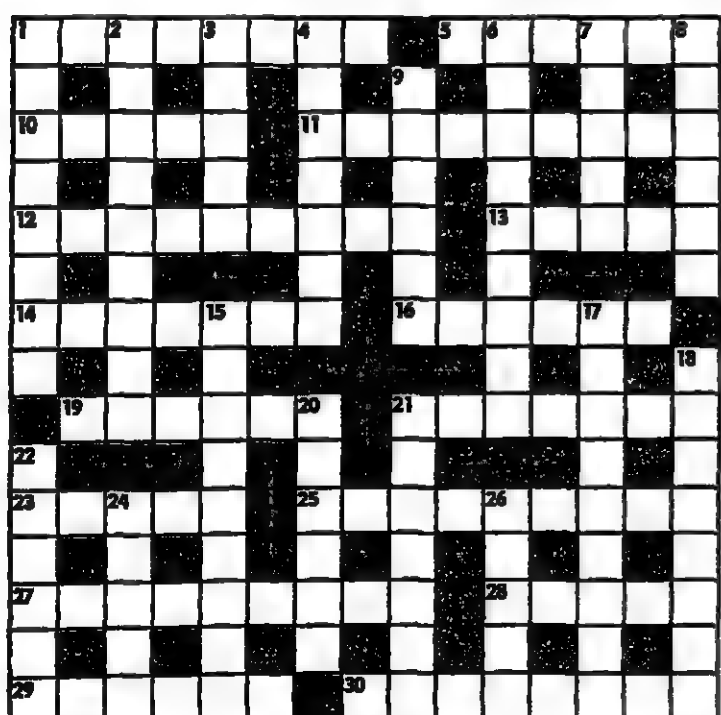
The sources said there were no tank battles between the Iraqis and allied forces. The Iraqi tanks destroyed were hit by hand-held TOW and Milan anti-tank missiles.

They denied the allied positions had been taken by surprise. The advance of Iraqi armour and

troops had taken place across "no man's land" between the Kuwaiti border and the first of the allied units.

The deliberate release of oil from the pumping station at Mina al-Bakr may have been an attempt by Iraq to tempt the allied forces to mount a ground operation to turn off the tap. Sources said it would be more difficult to send in allied aircraft to stop the flow as they had done with the first release of oil.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,517



- ACROSS**
- 1 An Abigail not mass-produced we hear (8).
 - 5 High cost of vessel (6).
 - 10 Absolute match? (5).
 - 11 This possibly includes female linguist (9).
 - 12 It controls, trains, and gives the go-ahead to fight (6-3).
 - 13 Duke fit to remain in House (5).
 - 14 Commend another spell in confidence (7).
 - 16 Lord of the Rings? (6).
 - 19 Game involving characters in the news (6).
 - 21 Sort of trace used to protect the young Moses (7).
 - 23 A striking goddess (5).
 - 25 One who wants not to be a dog-owner (3-6).
 - 27 Judges probably well known to this clerical person (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,516

POSSUM IRONCLAD
P O A H E O A
T U R B O H E M B O D Y
S O H E E P D B
S C O U R I E S Y H R
U O D N I O E
L P L O T I L L A L A
S E R P M C E D E S K
P A R O O K C A S E T
E N E O S A I I
G I C A D A F A T H E R L Y
I H R T W L L
O B E R O N I N I M I C A L
U R C M E C G
S T R O C K A D E E S T E I L M

- DOWN**
- 2 Harsh bark causes trouble (8).
 - 3 Cook was one for planning courses (9).
 - 4 Where whisky needs a lot of water all round (5).
 - 5 People dressed like Friar Tuck, say (7).
 - 6 Exotic dance a lot like Scheherazade's performance? (9).
 - 7 Upset ink over Smith and Steel (5).
 - 8 Aggregates placed at foot of columns (6).
 - 9 Refreshment with a kiss is all he needs (6).
 - 15 Result of air force intake rising (9).
 - 17 Plan in outline for boisterous players (9).
 - 18 Distribution of fares (5-3).
 - 20 Code variations (6).
 - 21 Square the difference (7).
 - 22 Type of bird - five in a cote perhaps (6).
 - 24 Rocket motive force (5).
 - 26 Bigwig looks inside the block-house (5).

Concise crossword, page 15

WEATHER

Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be bright with sunny spells and showers. It will become cloudy from the West later with some rain, turning to snow in places. The rest of Scotland, Wales and western England will be mostly bright. Southeast England and parts of eastern England will be cloudy, as will most of central and northern England. Outlook: brighter but with rain or snow in Scotland.

ABRIDGED											
Monday	1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37-40	41-44
Altogether	1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	25-28	29-32	33-36	37-40	41-44
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AA ROADWATCH											
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Warm front
 Cold front
 Occluded front

20°W 20°E
 50°N 60°N

Information supplied by Met Office

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Political sketch
Hugo shorn
romantic airs

هكذا من لامل

THE TIMES

23

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● LAW 28
● SPORT 28-32

BUSINESS

THURSDAY JANUARY 31 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Gulf optimism sends share prices soaring

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

MARKETS reacted strongly to first reports of the land battles along the Iraq-Kuwait border and to President Bush's optimism over the Gulf war.

London and New York shares were surprisingly strong. Dealers scrambled for dollars and gold fell to a three-month low after market talk of Middle East and Soviet selling. Oil rose just a few cents.

UK and Iraqi orders boost Allied Textile

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ORDERS from two defence ministries, the British and the Iraqi, have contributed to record profits at the Huddersfield-based Allied Textile Companies.

John Corrin, the chief executive, said yesterday the workforce of one subsidiary was working "six days a week" to meet a British order for camouflage fabric, material for nuclear, biological and chemical warfare protection suits and flak jackets. He said these orders "are always coming through but have intensified."

Twelve months ago, the company fulfilled a £750,000

trying to cut any remaining short positions but in such thin conditions, the task proved difficult.

There was selective support from the Continent for leading shares, but City fund managers remained reluctant to commit some of the massive funds they have steadily built up. Many agree that the London market offers good value for money but they are deterred by the uncertainty created by the Gulf war and the economic outlook.

But gold, once a safe haven for investors in times of trouble or uncertainty, sank below \$365 an ounce briefly in Europe, down from a high of \$411 immediately after the outbreak of war on January 17. The metal finally closed in London at \$367.35, a fall of \$8.90 on the day.

Ted Arnold, of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, the securities house, said: "Why should anyone, anywhere, want to buy gold? It's a very poor investment. You lose money on it, year in year out. Every time gold puts

its head above the parapet, it gets shot down. I'd sell on the rallies."

Government securities scored gains of up to 1/8%, hoping for a cut in bank base rates, but the reports of ground fighting in Saudi Arabia combined with stronger-than-expected American economic data to send investors fleeing back into the dollar. After being driven through its DM1.4900 resistance point overnight, the dollar extended its gains against the leading currencies late in the London afternoon on news of allied casualties during the Iraqi incursions.

The dollar surged 1.5 pence at one point to DM1.5015, before profit-taking pulled it back down to DM1.4930.

Sterling also softened, dropping below \$1.9500 before recovering to finish at \$1.9605, down nearly 1.25 cent. Against the mark, the pound weakened slightly to DM2.9267 from DM2.9282. On its trade-weighted index, it closed 0.4 lower at 94.4.

Meanwhile, North Sea Brent Blend, the international oil benchmark, inched higher in late trading to stand at 20.58 dollars a barrel, putting it only 11 cents above its previous close on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

"Basically it's a nothing market," said one crude oil trader. "I'm playing cards at the moment."

Thyssen, the German steel company, yesterday defended itself charges that it was involved in illegal exports to Iraq. The state prosecutor's office in Bochum announced that it has launched an investigation into the company's activities, in particular that of its subsidiary Thyssen Rohrumpfen.

John Major interview, page 12
US indicators, page 25
Stock market, page 26



'No surprises, no black holes': Sir Patrick, left, Rank's chairman, with chief executive Michael Gifford yesterday

Rank rises 34p after profits top £312m

By MARTIN WALLER

SHARES in The Rank Organisation surged 34p to 601p as the company's largest leisure group unveiled a £21 million increase in pre-tax profits to £312.1 million and said its acquisition of Mecca Leisure Group had not given rise to unforeseen problems.

Sir Patrick Messy, the Rank chairman, said: "We haven't discovered any surprises or black holes, contrary to our expectations prior to the acquisition." Michael Gifford, the chief executive, said the integration of Mecca was now complete.

Sir Patrick emphasised, however, that the group was going through "particularly difficult times" because of economic pressures in Britain and America, even before the impact of the Gulf.

Mr Gifford added: "We haven't seen sufficient trading to give a reliable indication of the result of the year as a whole."

A final dividend of 20.75p makes a total of 31p, an effective increase of 2p.

The problems that arose at the opening of Rank's Orlando theme park, jointly owned by MCA, the American entertainment group, in the summer had only a "trivial" effect on profits, and custom there was now ahead of expectations.

But there is no positive sign yet from MCA's new owner, Matsushita, the Osaka electronics group, that it wants to go ahead with the proposed European theme park, planned for Rainham Marshes in Essex or alternatively outside Paris. Rank is not thought to be keen on pressing ahead with the scheme this year, given the economic situation.

Times, page 25

MMC clears merger of Bae with French

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, has cleared the proposed merger of the guided-weapons businesses of British Aerospace and Thomson-CSF, the French state-owned defence company.

The decision, which was mandatory after a monopolies commission ruling, marks another setback for the British government in its attempt to crack down on mergers involving foreign state-owned companies.

In its report, the MMC said the deal "may not be expected to operate against the public interest". BAE and Thomson-CSF are now set to establish Eurodynamics, in which both will have a 50 per cent stake.

The firm is expected to have a turnover of £1.4 billion. The merger, which had the approval of the defence ministry, was referred to the MMC in September on the grounds that Thomson-CSF is 60 per cent owned by the French state. This follows an edict by Mr Lilley last July, under which the MMC is required to pay special regard to mergers which involve state-controlled

companies, in order to prevent "nationalisation by the back door".

The decision follows similar action last week when an MMC report concluded that there were no objections to Crédit Lyonnais, the French state-owned bank, increasing its share in Woodchester Investments, a leasing firm.

Crédit Lyonnais, which has another proposed British acquisition under investigation by the MMC, complained to the European Commission that the government's policy contravenes European law. So far, only one merger proposal, the planned sale of ICI's fertiliser business to Kemira Oy of Finland, has been blocked under Mr Lilley's guidelines.

State ownership was only one aspect taken into consideration by the MMC. Others were falling demand and overcapacity, the tendency towards more expensive technology and the breakdown of national markets. The MMC concluded that "Eurodynamics should be able to compete more effectively than either party to the merger on its own. Efficiency should be enhanced; duplication of effort, especially in the field of research, should be reduced."

On the issue of state control the report said that "it is notoriously difficult to establish facts in this area." One of the decisive factors was that Thomson's "control d'objectifs" (with the government) does not give the impression that the government uses the company's public sector status to manipulate its operations as part of some overall state plan, nor have we received any evidence of such manipulation.

Both companies predictably welcomed the decision and said that further talks are to be held. Thomson-CSF said in a statement that it "will obviously take into account recent developments in the business environment", a view echoed by a BAE spokeswoman.

Doug Henderson, the Labour trade and industry spokesman, said the "merger is necessary for the future of the missile industry".

US walks out of Atlantic air talks

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH hopes of forcing a more liberal air services agreement across the Atlantic were dashed last night when negotiators for the American Department of Transportation walked out of talks in London.

The Americans claimed the price being demanded by the Department of Transport in return for allowing Pan Am and TWA, the troubled carriers, to hand over their rights to fly into Heathrow to the United and American airlines respectively were too high.

Officials from the transport department were convinced that the need for a quick agreement on new flying rights had given them the perfect opportunity to push the Americans into allowing British airlines far greater access to American cities than they have today. They demanded access to a wide range of American cities. If approved, this would have been worth about £250 million in extra revenue to British carriers.

To the Americans' surprise, however, they toughened their original negotiating stance and wanted to block all further expansion by American carriers, allowing United and American to take over the existing Pan Am and TWA services, but not to extend them. The Americans claimed that, although they were prepared to give some concessions, that demand amounted to "extortion". They broke off the talks, returning to Washington with no further negotiations planned.

In a strongly worded statement, the transport department in London said it understood that the new agreement was an urgent matter. "If that is right, then the Americans need to get a more constructive mandate and return to the table," said a spokesman. The department said American trade representatives ended the two days of talks after claiming that "their negotiating mandate was exhausted."

British aviation sources said Malcolm Rifkind, the transport minister, has taken an unyielding line over American pressure to take over Pan Am and TWA by rushing through some form of approval for their planned route sales. Mr Rifkind has to decide on a report from the Civil Aviation Authority, delivered last week, which recommends the abolition of the existing regulatory regime.

ISE set to examine rise in Yale shares

By OUR CITY STAFF

AN INTERNATIONAL Stock Exchange enquiry is likely into the rapid price movement in the shares of Yale and Valor ahead of yesterday's bid approach announcement.

The company confirmed that "it has received an approach which may or may not lead to an offer for Yale". Its shares rose 24p on Tuesday to 200p, and by an additional 39p to 239p yesterday.

The likely interested party is Williams Holdings, holder of an estimated 7 per cent stake in Yale and whose chairman, Nigel Rudd, was yesterday seen entering Yale and Valor's Chiswick head office. Michael

Montague, Yale's chairman, said he was talking to Hill Samuel, the group's financial adviser, and had nothing to add to the formal company statement. A further announcement "will be made in due course".

Analysis says a merger between Yale and Williams would make good business sense, given that both groups have home-related interests. They also say that both would be suffering from the depressed consumer market.

Yale has a market capitalisation of £281.1 million. In the past year its shares have traded between a high of 327p and a low of 154p.

Hanson's lords take up baton for five more years

No finale yet for maestros

By COLIN CAMPBELL

LORD Hanson and Lord White, aged 69 and 68 respectively, have been graciously pleased not to retire and will accept the invitation to serve Hanson group for another five years beyond 1992, a cheering audience of 1,500 shareholders was told yesterday.

The occasion was Hanson's annual meeting, the setting the Barbican Hall, in the City, into which the crowds had poured, single file through security frames, and on whose stage sat sufficient main board and associate directors to make up a full-sized orchestra. In the audience sat those who obviously make Hanson's gathering an annual visit to London. In the gods were four Indians of the Navajo nation, from Arizona, now travelling via Britain, Germany and the United Nations to argue a case for land rights and to complain about the mining activities of Peabody Coal.

As annual meetings go, it was almost pure entertainment. Peter Harper, main

board director, in master of ceremonies style ahead of the scheduled 11am overture - delayed until 11.03am in deference to security procedures - reminded everybody to retain their voting cards, without which admission to the Hanson exhibition hall of products would be denied.

And then, stage right, Lord Hanson, like a modern day conductor, appeared. The entire platform rose and clapped. The audience remained seated, but the hall rang with applause. The great man had arrived.

The audience was almost beside itself on news that the two lords had agreed to stay on beyond 1992.

"I hope this answer will enable us all to get on with the job and will stop the rumours about lack of succession plans," Lord Hanson said, with a wave in the direction of where the orchestra's brass section would have sat.

Earlier, Lord Hanson had introduced the associate directors en masse, presumably on the grounds that their day will come. Main board directors,

strategically placed like first and second violins, had earlier been introduced individually.

"We have a bank of young, bright people waiting to be appointed, Lord Hanson said.

It almost all went Lord Hanson's way, but not quite all. Peabody, land rights and alleged disturbance of ancient burial sites would be sympathetically considered, he was persuaded to acknowledge.

Hanson preferred to sponsor the Derby rather than the London marathon, Lord Hanson quietly insisted.

But his mask nearly slipped when asked about donations to the Conservative Party.

With Margaret Thatcher clearly in mind, what was he going to do "now that your idol and mentor has been de-throned"?

With a narrowed eye and a taut face, before which many a take-over candidate will have frozen down the years, Lord Hanson said he would support any government that encouraged growth and industry. Loud cheers. The concert was over.

Howe to join board of Glaxo

SIR Geoffrey Howe has gained his second non-executive directorship with a leading company since resigning from the cabinet.

He is to join the board of Glaxo, the pharmaceuticals group and Britain's fourth largest company, with effect from tomorrow. He was appointed a non-executive director of BIC, this month.

His precise role has yet to be decided, but in addition to attending the company's eight board meetings and the annual meeting, it may include seats on subcommittees.

SIB publishes 40 core rules

The Securities & Investments Board is publishing ten principles and 40 core rules for the conduct of business that will govern all investment firms. More than half the core rules need only apply to dealings with individual or non-professional customers.

Comment, page 25

'PSDR of £1bn this year'

The Institute for Fiscal Studies in its Green Budget, published today, says that if the Chancellor left tax and spending policies unchanged in the Budget he would face a Public Sector Borrowing Requirement of £4 billion in 1991-2 instead of the £3 billion debt repayment forecast by the Treasury last year. But despite the recession and the Gulf war, the Treasury should manage to make a £1 billion debt repayment this fiscal year.

Urging restraint, page 25

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Power to pull generator sale may be given to City

□ Clyde Petroleum is selling its remaining interests in the Alba and Kilda oilfields in the North Sea to Conoco (UK) for £17.49 million. The sale will increase Conoco's interest in block 16/26 to 13.68 per cent and in block 16/27b to 11 per cent. Cash from the sale will reduce Clyde's gearing by 6 per cent to 30 per cent.

But just such a "comfort clause" is now expected to go into the agreements, which will cover the period after impact day when the price will be revealed on February 22.

The government is believed to have adopted the more pragmatic view that if the war turns sour and markets do take an abrupt tumble, there is no point in continuing with

National Power directors give a warning that the sale of the government stake is one of the uncertainties the company must face in two years. It is believed that some board members were keener for an even stronger message to potential investors, outlining their opposition to the government stake, but were overruled by their colleagues.

PowerGen is also unhappy about the partial sale but apparently thinks there is little to be gained from highlighting the fact.

By NEIL BENNETT
MIDLAND Bank is planning to introduce an annual charge on its credit cards as part of an effort to boost revenue.

The bank is expected to announce the charge on its Visa and Access cards soon, following the example of Lloyds and Barclays, which levied annual fees on their credit cardholders last year.

A spokesman for the bank described a newspaper story about the charge as speculative, but other industry figures confirmed that Midland had decided to levy a charge.

National Westminster is also reviewing its credit card services.

Golf uncertainty: Sir Simon Hornby of WH Smith

WH SMITH, the high street retail group that owns Our Price Music and Waterstone's bookshops, disappointed the market when it failed to increase its interim dividend.

Sir Simon Hornby, the group's chairman, said the Gulf war and the recession

the next few months and a decision was taken to maintain the dividend at 4p.

Sales, excluding DIY, rose 11 per cent to £936 million over the six months to December 1 and pre-tax profits fell 7 per cent to £34.9 million. Earnings fell from 13.1p to 11.4p.

**Ex-ConsGold man
to join Tace board**

By OUR CITY STAFF

MICHAEL Beckett, former director of Consolidated Gold Fields, is expected to join the board of Tace, the engineering

non-executive board position as well as the chairmanship. Tace reported pre-tax profits of £3.94 million (£3.17

group, in a non-executive role after the company's annual meeting in March.

But Dick Richardson, deputy chairman and managing director of Tace, declined to comment about the possible appointment of Mr Becker as chairman in place of Jock Mackenzie, who is to resign under institutional pressure.

A successor must be named before Tace's annual meeting in London on March 15, when Mr Mackenzie is expected to face demands to relinquish his

million) for the year to end September, on turnover of £36.56 million (£34.32 million). Earnings were 11.57p a share (10.57p). Total dividend stays at 11p with a final 7.75p.

Goring Keir, the instrumentation company 51 per cent owned by Tace, returned static pre-tax profits of £2.83 million (£2.86 million) for the same period and earnings of 23.4p a share (23.7p). Final dividend is 10p for an unchanged total of 15p.

By COLIN NARBROUGH
— SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Though this brought estimated gilt sales so far in the current financial year to more than £1.5 billion, City analysts expect the government to have to make further substantial issues in the next two months.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Midland Montagu, expects a further £1 billion of sales by the end of March, reflecting the government's increased funding needs, in part due to expenditure on the Gulf war.

But Nigel Richardson of Warburg Securities predicts a much as £2 billion before April, given the possibility that the government's funding requirement could rise far above Treasury expectations in 1991-92.

The final money data for December confirmed that M1, the narrow measure, rose at a seasonally adjusted 0.5 per cent to stand 2.7 per cent above December 1989, after a 3.1 per cent annual rise in November. The data showed no significant divergence from the provisional figures.

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in RKF Group, a mini-conglomerate with interests in property, leisure and

heating products, were suspended at 5p "pending clarification of its financial position".

Bob Francis, chairman, was in talks yesterday with Hill Samuel, RKF's merchant bank, seeking support for a restructuring package that would allow the company time to pay debts of about £25 million.

At the suspension price RKF is capitalised at £2.65 million, compared with £6.3 million on flotation.

HILTON International, the hotel subsidiary of Ladbroke Group, said its British hotel operations were faring no worse than a year ago, in an attempt to stem market concern that the Gulf war was affecting hotel bookings. Michael Hirst, chairman and chief executive of Hilton International, said British occupancy is at 55 per cent in the first four weeks of January 1991, "less than 10 per cent down" on last year.

Mr Hirst stressed that although this figure is lower than last year, average room rates and other revenues, such as food and beverages, are "usefully ahead of last year." He said total turnover is on a par with January 1990. January and February are the quietest months of the year with the lowest proportion of overseas visitors. About 70 per cent of all sleepers at Hilton's hotels in Britain are of domestic origin. Ladbroke shares firmed 9p to 225p on the news.

Sun Alliance in GRE buy

SUN Alliance has bought Guardian Royal Exchange's New Zealand insurance subsidiary for NZ\$6.5 million (£1.98 million). The acquisition makes Sun the country's third largest insurer. Sun is merging the GRE subsidiary with its own business. The combined operation, with headquarters in Auckland and 16 branches round the country, will have an estimated market share of 7 per cent.

Loss deepens at Lister

LISTER & Co. the Bradford textile products group, has axed its interim dividend (1p) after pre-tax losses deepened from £499,000 to £1 million in the six months to end-September. Turnover slipped from £17.5 million to £17.2 million. The loss per share worsened from 3.1p to 6.26p. Reorganising spinning activities, now completed, resulted in an extraordinary loss of £1.97 million. The shares lost 3p to 53p.

ALM Group, the aircraft interiors maker, has cut its interim dividend to 1.5p a share (2.4p). After pre-tax profits dived to £620,000 (£1.3 million) in the six months to end-October, largely due finance costs surging to £716,000 (£299,000). Turnover slipped to £20 million (£22.2 million), after the group's property division closed. Earnings per share plunged to 2.8p (6.8p). The shares lost 23p to 111p. Jeff Smith, chairman, said that the property disposals are making "very slow" progress. ALM has started deliveries on the \$60 million McDonnell Douglas MD-11 programme and also has a contract from Saab Scania worth up to \$300 million.

ANZ Bank to cut costs

ANZ Bank is reviewing its London operations as part of the Australian bank's worldwide cutbacks. Its catering facilities are closing, but the bank said all costs were being examined although there were no present plans to cut banking staff. ANZ has 700 employees in Britain. In November the bank said it would cut its Australian staff by 1,000 after a 43 per cent fall in net profits to £164 million.

Irish inflation 'close to 3%

CONSUMER price inflation in Ireland will be "quite close to 3 per cent", Albert Reynolds, the finance minister, forecast in his 1991 budget speech. In the year to November, the annual rate was 2.7 per cent. The Gulf situation, plus recession in Britain and America, are expected to slow the gross national product to a real annual growth rate of 2.25 per cent, after a 4 per cent annual average since 1986.

SCARCELY any employers with a pension scheme are prepared to contribute to an employee's own personal pension plan instead, according to the annual survey of the National Association of Pension Funds. Of more than 700 public and private employers in the survey, 96 per cent were unwilling to contribute to a personal pension scheme.

The 1990 survey showed that almost half of employers had enjoyed a contributions holiday or at least a reduction in contributions over the previous 12 months. More than half the schemes had a common retirement age for men and women, predominantly at 65 or 60.

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (US\$)	Yearly change (%)
The World (free)	578.1	0.7	-31.5	0.4	-22.1	-0.1	-17.7
EAFE (free)	110.5	0.7	-31.5	0.4	-22.1	-0.1	-17.7
Europe (free)	992.1	0.5	-36.5	0.2	-30.8	-0.3	-23.0
Europe (free)	101.6	0.5	-36.7	0.1	-31.0	-0.4	-23.0
Europe (free)	596.7	1.3	-21.6	1.2	-18.5	0.5	-5.5
Europe (free)	128.6	1.3	-21.2	1.0	-18.4	0.4	-4.0
North America	424.6	1.2	-21.1	0.4	-4.4	0.4	-4.0
North America	1138.0	0.8	-26.8	0.6	-20.9	0.0	-11.4
North America	105.2	0.4	-21.2	0.2	-18.5	0.0	-11.4
Pacific	2165.0	-0.1	-44.9	-0.6	-38.3	-1.0	-33.1
Pacific	3102.5	-0.2	-45.3	-0.7	-39.0	-1.1	-33.1
Australia	239.0	2.0	-51.3	0.8	-16.5	1.2	-18.4
Australia	1211.5	0.8	-18.5	0.8	-12.5	0.0	-14.0
Belgium	683.1	1.0	-30.8	0.9	-27.2	0.2	-16.0
Canada	416.3	1.1	-30.7	0.2	-15.0	0.3	-18.0
Denmark	1082.8	0.5	-17.7	0.4	-12.8	-0.4	-0.4
Finland (free)	61.2	1.1	-46.9	0.9	-42.4	0.3	-35.0
France	86.7	2.9	-41.8	2.8	-36.9	2.1	-29.0
France	590.9	1.6	-28.2	1.5	-23.6	0.8	-13.4
Germany	875.0	1.0	-28.2	0.9	-23.6	0.2	-13.4
Hong Kong	2012.5	0.9	-9.3	0.1	9.7	0.0	0.0
Italy	240.4	1.3	-37.6	1.0	-33.1	0.4	-24.0
Japan	3314.5	-0.3	-46.3	-0.7	-40.2	-1.1	-34.0
Netherlands	720.9	0.3	-23.8	0.2	-18.3	-0.5	-7.0
New Zealand	52.8	1.8	-45.8	1.1	-38.5	1.0	-38.4
Norway (free)	1010.1	0.3	-24.7	0.1	-19.2	-0.5	-8.0
Spain/Mexico	176.8	0.0	-24.4	-0.2	-18.8	-0.8	-8.0
Spain/Mexico	1464.5	0.8	-26.6	0.1	-19.2	-0.1	-11.1
Spain	171.4	1.9	-27.6	1.6	-25.0	1.0	-12.0
Sweden	1292.3	0.0	-26.3	0.7	-19.7	0.2	-5.0
Sweden (free)	159.3	0.4	-21.0	0.1	-14.7	-0.4	-0.4
Switzerland	730.8	1.5	-1.5	1.5	0.5	0.8	0.8
Switzerland (free)	110.7	1.3	-20.7	1.3	-20.9	0.5	-4.0
UK	641.9	1.5	-11.0	1.5	-11.0	0.6	7.0
USA	335.4	1.2	-20.2	0.4	-3.4	0.4	-3.4

1990-91		1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26		2026-27		2027-28		2028-29		2029-30		2030-31		2031-32		2032-33		2033-34		2034-35		2035-36		2036-37		2037-38		2038-39		2039-40		2040-41		2041-42		2042-43		2043-44		2044-45		2045-46		2046-47		2047-48		2048-49		2049-50		2050-51		2051-52		2052-53		2053-54		2054-55		2055-56		2056-57		2057-58		2058-59		2059-60		2060-61		2061-62		2062-63		2063-64		2064-65		2065-66		2066-67		2067-68		2068-69		2069-70		2070-71		2071-72		2072-73		2073-74		2074-75		2075-76		2076-77		2077-78		2078-79		2079-80		2080-81		2081-82		2082-83		2083-84		2084-85		2085-86		2086-87		2087-88		2088-89		2089-90		2090-91		2091-92		2092-93		2093-94		2094-95		2095-96		2096-97		2097-98		2098-99		2099-00		2100-01		2101-02		2102-03		2103-04		2104-05		2105-06		2106-07		2107-08		2108-09		2109-10		2110-11		2111-12		2112-13		2113-14		2114-15		2115-16		2116-17		2117-18		2118-19		2119-20		2120-21		2121-22		2122-23		2123-24		2124-25		2
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Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 94.4 (day's range 94.4-94.6).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 30	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.9825-1.9830	1.9830-1.9830	1.03-1.07	1.31-1.30pp
Monro	2.5271-2.7283	2.7242-2.7283	0.85-0.87p	0.88-0.90pp
Amster	3.9239-3.9240	3.9239-3.9240	1% 9p	1% 9p
Berlin	80.00-80.00	80.00-80.00	3p-3p	3p-3p
Copenhagen	11.2272-11.2278	11.2282-11.2278	3p-3p	3p-3p
Dublin	7.1000-7.1000	7.1000-7.1000	1p-1p	1p-1p
Frankfr	3.2529-3.2530	3.2529-3.2530	14-1p	3p-3p
London	258.95-259.00	257.05-259.10	17pp-13pp	14-8pp
Munich	182.97-183.55	182.97-183.55	3-4pp	3-4pp
Nation	219.52-219.59	219.58-219.53	3-3pp	8-7pp
Osaka	11.1478-11.1478	11.4484-11.4718	3-4pp	3-4pp
Paris	3.9109-3.9109	3.9299-3.9109	3p-4pp	3p-4pp
Stockhm	10.9892-10.9892	10.9130-10.9392	14-1p	1p-1p
Tokyo	259.00-259.00	259.00-259.00	11-1p	3p-3p
Vienna	20.54-20.55	20.56-20.59	6p-6pp	22p-20pp
Zurich	2.4749-2.4872	2.4840-2.4872	1p-1p	3p-3p

Premium = + Discount = -

MONEY RATES (%)

Best Rates: Clearing Banks 14	Finance Hse 14	Week fixed 13
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high: 13%	Low 10	Week fixed 13
Treasury Bills (360-day): 2 1/8% 3 m 13/4	5 m 13	5 m 13 1/2
1 m 8	3 m 13	5 m 13
Prime Bank Bill (90-day): 13 1/4-13 1/2	12 1/4-13 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
Prime Bill (90-day)	14 1/4	14 1/4
Overnight: open at 14, close 11 1/2	14-13 1/4	13 1/2-13 1/2
Local Authority deposits:	14	13 1/2
14 1/4	13 1/4	13 1/4
Dollars: 6.95-6.94	7.05-7.07	7.00-7.00
Building Society Calls:	14 1/4-13 1/2	14-13 1/2

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollars	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	7 1/4-7 1/4	6 1/4-6 1/4	6 1/4-6 1/4
Swiss Francs	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	7 1/4-7 1/4	6 1/4-6 1/4	6 1/4-6 1/4
French Francs	10-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/4
Yen	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
Yen	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

London: Open \$373.10-373.60	Close \$367.00-367.75	High \$375.50-374.00
Low \$365.00-365.50	\$366.50-367.00	\$374.00-374.50

Sovereigns: Gold \$298.00-57.50 (Silver \$44.25-45.25) New \$90.50-91.50 (\$42.00-47.25)

Platinum: \$388.00 (\$386.00) Ruat: \$5.85 (Pt: \$555) Palladium: \$85.00 (\$42.00)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	14580-11465-2	Ireland	1.7785-1.7785
Australia dollar	2.4819-2.4904	Singapore	1.7785-1.7785
Bahrein dir*		Malaysia	2.3980-2.3980
Bahrein dir*	414.79-414.79	Australia	1.2700-1.2700
Bahrein dir*		Switzerland	1.1571-1.1571
Bahrein dir*	7.0975-7.0975	Sweden	8.8780-8.8780
Bahrein dir*		Swiss franc	1.7785-1.7785
Bahrein dir*	16.2171-15.2670	Denmark	7.4750-7.4750
Bahrein dir*		West Germany	1.4975-1.4975
Bahrein dir*		Netherlands	1.7785-1.7785
Bahrein dir*		France	1.9360-1.9360
Bahrein dir*		Belgium	1.9360-1.9360
Bahrein dir*		Italy	11.21-11.21
Bahrein dir*		Spain	30.70-30.70
Bahrein dir*		Hong Kong (HK)	7.9692-7.9692
Bahrein dir*		Portugal	131.10-132.10
Bahrein dir*		Spain	165.40-165.40
Bahrein dir*		Austria	10.54-10.54

ECOF: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance, Make-up day: Dec 31, 1990 Agreed rate Dec 29, 1991 to Feb 26, 1991 Scheme I: 14.54%, Scheme A & B: 15.06%, Interest rate Dec 1, 1990 to Dec 31, 1990 Scheme IV & V: 13.63%.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FT-SE 100	Period	Open	High	Low	Close
FT-SE 100	Mar 91	2188.0	2188.0		

1987/87		Price Cents	Gains Cents	Vol %	HY		
High	Low						
162	75	Key Bank Out in	77	77 1/2	8.1	117	22.3
163	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
164	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
165	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
166	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
167	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
168	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
169	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
170	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
171	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
172	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
173	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
174	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
175	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
176	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
177	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
178	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
179	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
180	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
181	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
182	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
183	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
184	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
185	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
186	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
187	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
188	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
189	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
190	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
191	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
192	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
193	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
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195	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
196	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
197	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
198	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
199	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
200	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
201	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
202	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
203	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
204	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
205	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
206	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
207	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
208	120	Key Bank Out in	121	120 3/4	8.1	40	21.5
209	120	Key Bank Out in	121				

LONDON FOK				SUGAR (FOB)				CRUDE OIL			
COCCA				COFFEES				The oil market took news about ground control			
Mar	971-515	Jan	926-821	C Cans	100-00	Feb	100-00	recovery in the releases from stockpiles, in it's stride			
May	955-564	Jul	934-523	Mar	100-00	Mar	100-00				
Aug	983-982	Oct	951-530	Apr	135-8-85-4	Apr	135-8-85-4				
Nov	719-710	Jul	949-545	May	207-0-0	May	207-0-0				
Dec	748-745	Sep	954-563	Oct	200-0-0-2	Oct	200-0-0-2				
Mar	773-772	Nov	979-576	Dec	202-0-0-2	Dec	202-0-0-2				
Vol	10619	Vol	5300	Vol	2554	Vol	2554				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				H-PRO SOYA				CRUDE OIL (Refined FOB)			
WHEAT				BARLEY				Brent 15 day (Mar)			
Close (2%)	Close (2%)	Close (2%)	Close (2%)	Feb	105-0-0-0	Feb	105-0-0-0	21 05			
Mar	127-00	Mar	113-85	Mar	109-0-0-0	Mar	109-0-0-0	20 45			
Apr	127-00	Apr	113-70	Apr	110-0-0-0	Apr	110-0-0-0	19 85			
May	127-00	May	113-55	May	110-0-0-0	May	110-0-0-0	21 00			
Jun	127-00	Jun	113-40	Jun	110-0-0-0	Jun	110-0-0-0	20 40			
Jul	127-00	Jul	113-25	Jul	110-0-0-0	Jul	110-0-0-0	20 30			
Aug	127-00	Aug	113-10	Aug	110-0-0-0	Aug	110-0-0-0	20 20			
Sep	127-00	Sep	113-00	Sep	110-0-0-0	Sep	110-0-0-0	20 10			
Oct	127-00	Oct	112-85	Oct	110-0-0-0	Oct	110-0-0-0	20 00			
Nov	127-00	Nov	112-70	Nov	110-0-0-0	Nov	110-0-0-0	19 50			
Dec	127-00	Dec	112-55	Dec	110-0-0-0	Dec	110-0-0-0	19 40			
Vol	333	Vol	110	Vol	535	Vol	535	19 30			
LONDON POTATO FUTURES				Volume 12				PRODUCTS (Buy/sell 1/8T)			
Feb (3/100)				Close (2%)				Spot oil C.I.W new (except delivery)			
Mar	121-5	Mar	121-5	Mar	121-5	Mar	121-5	Premium Gas 1-5			
Apr	121-5	Apr	121-5	Apr	121-5	Apr	121-5	Gasol EEC			
May	121-5	May	121-5	May	121-5	May	121-5	Non EEC 1H Feb			
Jun	121-5	Jun	121-5	Jun	121-5	Jun	121-5	3-5 Fuel Oil			
Jul	121-5	Jul	121-5	Jul	121-5	Jul	121-5	Naphtha			
Aug	121-5	Aug	121-5	Aug	121-5	Aug	121-5				
Sep	121-5	Sep	121-5	Sep	121-5	Sep	121-5				
Oct	121-5	Oct	121-5	Oct	121-5	Oct	121-5				
Nov	121-5	Nov	121-5								

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Liffe merger faces a new problem

COMMENT

A behind the scenes dispute over market-makers' jealously guarded and profitable stock borrowing privileges is setting back further the already long-delayed merger of the London International Financial Futures Exchange and the London Traded Options Market.

And some insiders involved in the negotiations believe the proposed merger of the two markets into a new London Derivatives Exchange is at serious risk unless the International Stock Exchange, the Bank of England, and the Inland Revenue can defuse the row.

The dispute centres on the extent to which market-making members of LTOM will be able to continue borrowing equities when they join the proposed London Derivatives Exchange. Without the ability to borrow stock and go short in underlying equities the ability of LTOM dealers to make markets in options would be badly hit since they would no longer be able to hedge their positions.

LTOM, an offshoot of the International Stock Exchange and it is this status that confers

on members the right to borrow stock which is traditional, and vital, in making markets in the cash market in underlying equities. Stock is borrowed from leading institutional shareholders and channelled to market-makers, at low short term rates of interest, via a select band of stockbrokers acting as "money brokers".

But the new LDE will be an independent body outside the ISE and unless the rules are changed will not inherit stock borrowing rights. To ensure these rights are carried over delicate negotiations will have to take place with the ISE where the stock borrowing privilege is one of the few remaining closed-shop "perks" of membership.

The Bank of England oversees the system and the Inland Revenue is also intimately involved since ISE member firms borrowing stock can do so without paying stamp duty. ISE member firms which

operate in both the cash and options markets are taking a particularly hard line on any stock borrowing rights which may be granted to LDE members. They fear that without strict limits LDE options dealers will effectively pose a competitive threat to their market-making in underlying equities.

Failure to reach agreement would hit the independent options dealers far harder than the integrated houses. The large securities houses would still be able to borrow stock by virtue of their continuing ISE membership and in effect use such stock holdings to hedge positions held separately by their own options market-making offshoots.

LTOM, reckons agreement will be reached though ISE equity market makers are showing "some concern" over extending

stock borrowing privileges" to all and sundry. LTOM and an ISE committee will then consider the matter next month then approval for any changes must be sought from the Inland Revenue.

If all goes well the new LDE, originally set to open at the end of 1990, will open its doors in the middle of this year.

SIB rules

After so much consultation over the new style of simpler regulation for the securities industry, the first two tiers of principles and core conduct of business rules delivered by Sir David Walker inevitably contain few surprises. Their brevity — essentially 16 well-spaced pages — is still striking evidence of the degree of

change from earlier versions of rulebooks that were most useful for arm-strengthening exercises. There are three basic differences.

The SIB has largely withdrawn from one of its original roles of being an alternative regulator to the organisations set up for each section of the financial services industry. In theory, the role remains, but only about 85 firms are now directly authorised by the SIB as opposed to the many thousands registered with the industry self-regulatory organisations. An all-purpose SIB rulebook, to which all the SRO rules had to be equivalent, thereby becomes otiose. The SRO rules, including their individual "third-tier" rules, need now only give "adequate" investor protection. This change is a straight gain in simplicity, cost and therefore effectiveness.

The move from universal detail to principle and rather generally stated core rules changes the way firms must

conform. Instead of ticking off detailed relevant rules, they must think whether their actions are fair and reasonable. In principle, this is better, since chief executives and compliance officers are forced to take the vaunted ethical view claimed for the old-style City. In practice, that makes life more complex and, unless closely monitored, could dilute protection. Most people unfairly serving their own interest think they are behaving reasonably unless forcibly told otherwise.

A much sharper distinction is also made between dealing with professionals and dealing with the private investor. This should remove vast quantities of pointless, costly and time-consuming bureaucracy.

But will enough protection be given to groups, charities and companies that do not qualify as private investors but are just as much babes in the financial services wood? The DTI looks likely to produce an even tighter definition of the private investor than the SIB and this may need rethinking in the light of experience.

IFS counsels restraint if Lamont is to keep his job



Bill Robinson: director of IFS, which counsels restraint

ONE of the joys of being prime minister for John Major must be that he no longer has to be Chancellor. For rarely has a Chancellor faced a grimmer outlook than the one Norman Lamont has to contend with as he prepares his first, and possibly last, Budget.

Mr Lamont has to achieve four partly conflicting objectives, each of which would be challenging enough to deal with on its own: to rescue the economy from recession; to keep inflation falling; to stabilise the pound in the European exchange-rate mechanism; and to help Mr Major win the next election.

In its annual paper on Budget options, now known as the Green Budget, the Institute for Fiscal Studies has defined the Chancellor's unenviable task in the most authoritative form.

The consequences of the uncertain economic outlook for the public sector accounts and the Budget judgment are serious, but not perhaps as grim as might have been supposed.

For the 1990-1 fiscal year, the Public Sector Debt Repayment is likely to be £1 billion instead of the £7 billion projected last March. This is not due to a recession-induced shortfall in revenues. The latter are more or less on target, since higher-than-expected inflation has offset weakness in economic activity.

The problem is on the spending side, with local authority spending running about £4 billion ahead of plans and public corporations contributing nothing to the Treasury instead of the £1 billion debt repayment originally projected. Looking ahead, the IFS believes the Treasury will take in £2 billion more in taxes in 1991/92 than it projected in the last Budget, despite the depth of the recession. Last year's budget forecasts, which showed revenues growing by a mere 4.5 per cent between 1990-1 and 1991-2, "always

looked surprisingly low", the IFS notes. On spending, the Treasury has admitted that next year's general government expenditure would overshoot the 1990 budget target of £225 billion by £9 billion.

The IFS believes that the revised figure of £234 billion announced in the autumn statement will have to be increased only marginally to £235 billion despite the recession and the costs of war in the

Gulf. This balance of factors should leave the Chancellor with a public sector borrowing requirement of £4 billion.

While this might look like a disappointment compared with the £3 billion debt repayment planned by the Treasury in last year's Budget, it would actually represent a very modest shortfall, equivalent to only 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product. A PSBR of this magnitude would be fully compatible with the govern-

ment's long-term aim of balancing the budget over the medium term. The question raised by these figures is whether the Chancellor could afford to be more generous in the Budget, perhaps offering significant tax cuts to stimulate investment or consumer spending. The IFS believes that he could not, for an ironic set of reasons.

Firstly, the Treasury and the government have made avoidance of fiscal fine-tuning a central tenet of their economic philosophy. The IFS acknowledges that membership of the exchange-rate mechanism might theoretically require more active use of fiscal policy to stabilise the economy, since monetary policy has to be directed at the exchange rate.

But an aggressively expansionary Budget might "be interpreted by the foreign exchange markets as a loss of nerve", given the government's firm opposition to such policies in the past. Thus any attempt to move beyond the automatic stabilisers built into the tax system might conflict with the overriding objective of bolstering sterling in the ERM.

This leaves the Chancellor with little more than tinkering to boost the economy and the government's electoral fortunes. Among the possibilities the IFS suggests are a shift in the income tax burden from the poor to the rich by increasing personal allowances and a rebalancing of car and petrol taxes to discourage driving, without raising the overall cost of car ownership.

The IFS specifically counsels against any special relief for companies hard pressed by the recession. This might weaken companies' resolve to bring down wage settlements. And on this "the fortunes of the economy — and the government — now depend".

ANATOLE KALETSKY
Economics Editor

Rejoicing with relief at Rank

TEMPUS

THE surge in Rank Organisation's share price on publication of its full-year figures had little to do with short-term prospects for a company with heavy involvement in the battered hotel and leisure sectors.

The market was just relieved there was nothing too ghastly lurking in the books. The shares jumped 34p to 601p as Rank reported pre-tax profits up £21 million to £312.1 million. Operating profits, however, were a touch down, the pre-tax improvement coming entirely from a temporarily-lower interest bill, while the dilutive effects of the January 1990 rights issue and the Mecca acquisition left earnings per share 9.6p lower at 70.1p.

The full-year figures, the first since the acquisition of Mecca, include a £35 million dent in trading profits from the now-closed Novus airline. Elsewhere the picture is patchy, and Rank is again warning of the uncertainties ahead. Mecca, trading for 11 weeks, contributed £5.2 million after interest, while Rank Xerox chipped £167.2 million into trading profits, a £12 million rise in exceptional masking a slight downturn.

Gearing remains in the forties, high but containable. If 1990 was unsatisfactory, 1991 is not going to be much better, as a cautious two-tax share of £330 million leaves the shares on a prospective rating of 10.4 times, supported by an above 7 per cent yield. Any optimism focuses on 1992, when the rating drops to 8.5 times. The shares are not to be chased at current levels, but remain a long-term hold and a buy on weakness.

Allied Textile

THE textiles industry is not renowned for increasing profits when the economy is booming, so a 6 per cent uplift to £14.1 million at a time of deep recession, as reported by

Allied Textile Companies, was bound to raise a few eyebrows. But then, Allied has more than £20 million cash or near cash assets, and more than £30 million in investments. Last year the profit contribution from these rose from 25 to 40 per cent. Textile profits fell from £9.98 million to £8.25 million, although, once the £1 million write-down on the value of wool stocks is stripped out, the downturn is only 5 per cent. Although margins are under pressure, Allied has managed to hold its own in overseas markets.

The company has an enviable record of turning around small, textile acquisitions, and succeeded in squeezing £500,000 profit out of a nine-month contribution from the previously loss-making Hugh Mackay, acquired for £7.6 million last year. Armed with its mountain of cash, similar, cherry-picking acquisitions can be expected as prices fall.

The shares issued to pay for Mackay had a restricting influence on earnings last year. The outlook is for another year of little or no growth in earnings figure. If profits match expectations of between £14 million and £14.5 million, it will work out at about 34p. This puts the shares on a forward multiple of 9.5, a hefty premium to the sector, but deserved for the defensive qualities of the stock, export performance and acquisition potential.

WH Smith

THE recession has been running like a plague through the retail sector for the last 18 months and, having picked off or disabled the weakest players, it is now making the strongest cough and splutter. WH Smith, that classic defensive stock, disappointed

the market with pre-tax profits 7 per cent lower at £34.9 million for the six months to December 1. The dividend is unchanged at 4p, for a yield of less than 5 per cent.

WH Smith, approaching its bicentenary, will ride out the recession better than most, but it is having to run hard just to stand still. Sales, excluding DIV, rose 11 per cent to £936 million and trading profits advanced 3 per cent to £50.8 million, but a jump in the interest charge to £15.6 million (£11.8 million) led to the pre-tax fall. Earnings

per share fell to 11.4p (13.1p).

The £5.6 million credit from the pension fund was larger than expected and the size of investment in information technology surprised some. The high street retail chains increased trading profits 3 per cent to £36.5 million on sales of £542 million, up 8 per cent.

Forecasts for the full year have been cut to about £82 million, putting the shares, down 14p at 330p, on a price/earnings ratio of 12.6. The group has always invested for the long term, but with a low yield and gearing of 74 per cent, the shares look unexciting in the short term.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Strike	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put
Alcatel	420	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	430	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	440	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	450	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	460	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	470	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	480	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	490	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	500	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	510	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	520	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	530	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	540	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	550	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	560	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	570	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	580	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	590	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	600	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	610	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	620	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	630	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	640	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	650	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	660	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	670	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	680	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	690	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	700	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	710	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	720	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	730	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	740	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	750	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	760	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	770	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	780	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	790	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	800	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	810	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	820	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	830	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	840	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	850	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	860	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	870	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	880	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	890	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	900	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	910	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	920	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	930	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	940	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	950	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	960	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	970	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	980	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	990	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31
Alcatel	1000	71	41	41	6	28	180	27	31

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Vestey backs RaceAid

LORD Vestey, one of Britain's wealthiest men, has thrown his weight behind RaceAid, the racing charity left briefly in the lurch after the collapse of Roger Levitt's financial empire last month. Lord Vestey, whose family interests include Dewhurst, the butchery chain, was at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, yesterday, to relaunch the initiative — the largest ever put together by the racing industry. RaceAid, which aims to raise £1 million this year for the Royal Marsden Hospital's cancer appeal, was rescued at the last moment by an anonymous donor after the Levitt Group failed to materialise. Now back on form, it kicks off a series of events on March 13, when 32 stable lads will take part in a field race in Cheltenham, sponsored by Garrards, the crown jeweller. The first 16 will win a place in the ADT-sponsored London Marathon, as well as "offering" themselves up for auction after the race. City socialites, for the day — Marathon Sunday — include the first RaceAid Ball, to be held at the Royal Garden.

Francis in limbo

IF A week is a long time in politics, a year may seem like a lifetime in business. Less than 12 months ago Bob Francis, chairman of RKF Group, the

mini-conglomerate, was receiving acclaim as one of the shortlist for the USM entrepreneur of the year award. He was pipped at the post by Tom Harrison, chairman of Norfolk House Group, at the start of what proved to be a traumatic year, culminating in the suspension of his company's shares yesterday "pending clarification of its financial position". The property to leisure group, which started life as a joinery subcontractor in 1959, has been battered by high interest rates, losing £4 million before tax in the six months to last June, but brokers expect the doughty Francis to drive a hard deal with his bankers.

Hole of a tax

AS IF to prove yet again that accountants really do have a sense of humour, KPMG Peat

Marwick McLintock has published a light-hearted guide to taxation in Europe. The guide, *EC le Budget*, which was launched at a reception at the Savoy Hotel last night, provides a fascinating insight into the life of the taxman in different countries. In Ireland, for instance, rabbit food is zero-rated for VAT but guinea pig food is not, since rabbits are considered to be the most highly taxed in the world, proposed a range of new taxes in last year's budget, including a tax on holes. Anglers who chopped holes in ice on rivers and lakes would have had to pay a £50 levy. "It shows in a way just how far Europe has to go towards tax harmonisation," says Roger White, head of tax at the firm.

Warsaw bound

THE slump in world trade has proved no obstacle to Andrew Litwinek, a former director of Drexel Burnham Lambert, the junk bond pioneer. Litwinek, who spent eight years at Drexel before turning his back on the City last April, has built up a thriving company trading with Poland. Huge trucks, loaded with everything from pencils and children's books to photocopyers, leave Britain each week. Litwinek, who was born in Britain of Polish parents, is now appealing to British retailers to join the act. "I now have half a dozen staff behind the Marriott in central Warsaw and have secured a bonded warehouse," says

Litwinek, who hopes to convince British companies to use his expertise. "There must be so many UK companies sitting on goods that they cannot sell here. I can do the paperwork for them, and know the customs regulations." Litwinek, who borrowed £50,000 against his Kensington home to set up Inter-East, his trading company, leaves for Warsaw tomorrow to check on the latest developments.

Heart warmer

EXECUTIVES at WH Smith, mulling over the latest dip in pre-tax profits, are looking forward to one of their traditional annual money-spinners — St Valentine's Day. In an attempt to encourage sales further, they have published a revealing survey of romantic trends in the run-up to February 14. Blame it on the recession if you will, but only about half of the men plan to send flowers — even though 83 per cent of women said they would love to receive them. Cards, records and tapes and exotic holidays — all of which the stationery to do-it-yourself chain can provide — are more likely to see cash-registers ringing. Even though a quarter thought the whole affair has become too commercial — last year the company sold 750,000 cards — a healthy 68 per cent thought the day was just "a bit of fun". That news will no doubt warm the heart of Sir Simon Hornby, WH Smith chairman.

JON ASHWORTH

Lead indicators take chill out of US recession

WASHINGTON'S main economic forecasting index rose slightly in December for the first time in six months, strengthening the view of the Bush administration and some economists that America's recession will be relatively mild.

The commerce department reported the index of leading indicators, which signals economic activity within six to nine months, rose 0.1 per cent in December, compared with revised declines of 1.1 per cent in November and 1.2 per cent in October.

"Things are not out of control on the downside," said David Hale, the chief economist at Kemper Securities in Chicago. But he gave a warning that the index, which showed a 3.6 decline for last year, could be revised lower. Higher oil prices and a drop in consumer confidence resulting from the Gulf war are widely held responsible for tipping the American economy into a recession after eight years of growth.

Economists believe the recovery of business and consumer moods will depend largely on the length of the war against Iraq. Most expect an about-turn this spring although some views are tempered by concern about the fragility of America's banking industry.

Allen Sinai, an economist at Boston Co, said the index shows America is over the worst but "does not tell us the bottom is in sight". The index

also provided a glimmer of hope to potential investors after the government's report last Friday that America's gross national product fell by 2.1 per cent last quarter. Bush administration officials, buoyed by a fall in oil prices since the Gulf war began two weeks ago and moves to trim short-term interest rates by the Federal Reserve Board in past weeks, have suggested the American economy could begin improving this quarter.

President Bush said in his State of the Union address yesterday that America would "return to growth soon" and called for lower interest rates to aid the recovery.

Economists had widely expected December's index of forward-looking indicators to show a 0.1 per cent decline. The index was boosted by six of its 11 components, including a longer average working week, higher stock prices, improved orders for new plant and equipment and a rise in factory orders. Other positive indicators were higher consumer confidence and fewer unemployment insurance claims.

Among the negative factors were a fall in the money supply, lower prices for raw materials, fewer factory orders for consumer goods, improved business delivery times and a decline in building permits.

SUSAN

New hopes of rates cut lifts

SHARE prices were squeezed sharply higher in thin trading as hopes of an early cut in interest rates were revived.

A firm start to trading on Wall Street saw share prices in London close at their best levels of the day, with the FTSE 100 index 38.8 points higher at 2,152.6. Turnover improved on recent depressed levels, with 560 million shares traded by the close. The FTSE index of 30 shares rose 29.7 points to 1,686.5.

Dealers said most of the early gains were inspired by the futures market, where the FT-SE 100 index March series continued to trade at a healthy premium. Continental buying was reported, forcing market-makers on to the defensive as they struggled to cut short positions.

The pound's steady performance has led some fund managers to believe the Bank of England may soon ease financial constraints. The Bundesbank meets today and is expected to peg interest rates at current levels. Such an outcome is likely to bring a sigh of relief in Threadneedle Street. Government securities gained almost 1½% at the longer end, cheered by a forecast from Goldman Sachs, the securities house, that interest rates are set to fall.

Yale & Valor jumped 39p to 239p. for a two-day rise of 63p, after confirming it had re-

ceived a bid approach. The shares enjoyed a late run on Tuesday amid speculation that the group was about to receive a bid from Williams Holdings, owner of about 5 per cent.

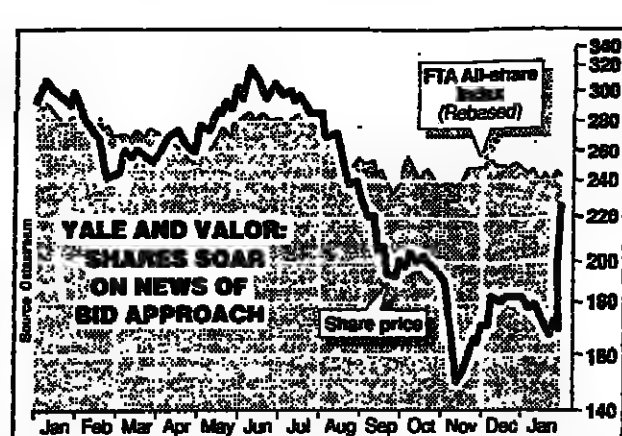
Electricity and water shares enjoyed further gains after a bullish circular from Barclays de Zoete Wedd. The broker is keen on the utilities because of their earnings and dividend growth potential and recommends a switch from gas and telecommunications to electricity and water.

The water package rose £80 to £2,910. Anglian firmed 2p to 296p, Northumbrian 5p to 294p, North West 3p to 284p, Severn Trent 9p to 274p, Southern Water 4p to 267p, South West 14p to 298p, Thames 5p to 300p, Welsh 13p to 312p, Wessex 7p to 283p and Yorkshire 8p to 300p. The electricity package

jumped £48 to £1,683. Eastern climbed 6p to 162p, East Midlands 4p to 167p, London 3p to 166p, Manweb 5p to 190p, Midlands 6½p to 160p, Northern 4p to 163p, Norweb 7p to 170p, Seebord 5p to 161p, Southern 5½p to 169½p, South Wales 4p to 183p, South West 10p to 171p and Yorkshire 1p to 179p.

British Gas firmed 3p to 237½p while British Telecom

Ladbroke rose 9p to 226p, helped by positive trading



news from its Hilton International hotels, but housebuilders suffered in the wake of bearish comments from James Capel, the broker, this week. Barratt Developments fell 4p to 65p and George Wimpey slipped 3p to 170p. WH Smith A fell 14p to 330p after reporting interim

James Capel's latest survey of single buy. Long term, analysts say, Radio, up 2p at 138p, Carlton 360p, and Reuters. All have cash issues before the franchise round.

bought Mecca, the leisure group, showed pre-tax profit up from £291.1 million to £312.1 million. The figure included an 11-week profit contribution from Mecca of £1 million. The shares responded with a rise of 34p to 601p.

• **Reuters**, the international news agency and financial

the media fails to identify
 at Neil Blackley likes Capital
 Communications, 4p down a
 ash in the bank. Avoid television
 and, he says.

based on a profits down
grading.

There was heavy turnover in Storehouse, with more than 13 million shares traded as the price rose 4p to 108p. Dealers reported a trade of 11 million shares on the overnight ticker leading to speculation that Sir Terence Conran, the former chairman, had sold his 2.2 per cent in the group.

United Biscuits held steady at 341p in the face of profit downgradings. The shares have been underpinned by speculative support from continental Europe, amid claims that the group could soon receive a bid. Nestlé, the Swiss food group, has been tipped as a potential buyer.

Ranks Hovis McDougall rose 10p to 318p after news that Hoare Govett has upgraded its profits forecast from £150 million to £158 million for the year to end-August.

Tootal rose 1½p to 62p after the textiles group said that Cha Chi Ming, the Hong Kong entrepreneur, held 17.72 million of its shares, or 6.08 per cent of the company.

Betacom, the telecommunications equipment group, fell 2½p to 12p after giving warning that 1990 pre-tax profits are likely to fall short of brokers' forecasts. Write offs are likely to result in losses of £2 million.

Dow rises despite casualties

New York
BLUE chips showed gains in morning trade as news of American casualties in the Gulf war failed to depress sentiment. An unexpected rise in December economic in-

Ned Collins, executive vice president of American equities trading at Daiwa, said the market's rise was partly due to a follow through from Tuesday's solid finish, and that leadership continued to be strong. The Dow Jones industrial average was 22.53 points higher at 2,685.15.

higher at 2,663.13.

□ Tokyo — Shares ended lower in thin volume, with trading dominated by the market's pursuit of higher-priced, small-capital issues. Brokers said this may continue in the absence of a broader market theme. The Nikkei index fell 50.51 points to 23,409.61, with 280 million shares traded.

- Hong Kong - The Hang Seng index rose 7.99 points to 3,200.89.
- Singapore - The Straits Times industrial index closed 2.06 points lower at 1,248.40.
- Sydney - The All-Ordinaries index rose 10 points to 1,314.0.
- Frankfurt - The Dax index ended 20.47 points higher at 1,400.73.

(Reuters)

WALL STREET

[illegible]

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES			
Investors Resources	37	Protein Intl	85
Aberdeen Smr Cos	86	Senon Healthcare	151
Brampton Res	139-8	St James Place	81
CMM Group		Smaller Tr	150
Castle Garm (50p)		Stand Platform	180
ECU Trst		Tr Euro Gwth	79
EFM Javia Trst		Two Yr Trst	73
Eidos	39	Und Energy	114
Faper Prest	35	Und Unperm	118
Gordon Vale	73-14	Unchem	125
Invergordon	145	Wng Tpe Trst	179 +8
Leverstret	140 +1		
M&I	92		
Malaysia Capital	19		
Midland Radio	55 + 1/4		
Paramount	83		
	91		
	16		

See main prices page for 179 +8

SHARES ISSUES

For & Col N/P

(Issue price in brackets)

RIGHTS ISSUES

Paramount
Reagan, Go

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	2701.48 (+38.86)*
S&P Composite	336.93 (+4.05)*
Telco	
Nasdaq Average	2340.68 (+50.51)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	3200.89 (+7.99)
FT-SE Eurofirst	865.91 (+14.19)
Amersterdam:	
AEX Tendency	801.4 (+0.4)
SBTNA	1314.04 (10.0)
Frankfurt: DAX	1400.73 (+20.47)
Brussels:	
General	4650.22 (+36.42)
CAC	4122.30 (+1.88)
Luzern: SNA Gen	472.2 (+11.94)
London:	
FTSE-100 Share	1028.19 (+16.62)
FTSE - "500"	1132.76 (+17.60)
FT: Goto Mines	131.71 (+3.7)
FT: Ford Int'l	91.66 (+0.05)
FT: Govt Secs	84.04 (+0.04)
Bergans	27.307
FT: AQ volume	560.3M
FT: AQ (com. sum)	112.12 (+0.74)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Stoeberry	725p (+50p)
Glad	873 1/2p (+1 1/2p)
Wm. S. Gump	563 1/2p (+14p)
Redland	592p (+4p)
A Kerstner	485p (+30p)
BICC	355p (+10p)
BASS	538 1/2p (+10p)
Grand Mill	655 1/2p (+9p)
Gumtrust	731p (+13p)
Booth 'A'	336p (+13p)
Dunhill	303 1/2p (+11p)
Kingshrer	377 1/2p (+12p)
M&G	370p (+11p)
Hawker Suddely	452 1/2p (+12p)
ICI	916 1/2p (+3p)
Booth	751p (+13p)
Boal	601p (+34p)
Reuten	772 1/2p (+4 1/2p)
Boal Org	357p (+15p)
FALLS:	
Wm Smith 'A'	330p (-14p)

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

[illegible]

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
January 21	February 1	April 25	May 7

Call options were taken out on: 30/1/81 ADT, Amstrad, Avisco, Control Secs, Greenwich Resources, McCarty, Puk ADT, Ledbrooke, Lsi Services, P&P.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

These prices relate to Thursday's trading.

* Yield expressed as CAR (Current Annual Return) @ Ex dividend, @ Dividend, & Cum stock split, a Ex split, as Cum all (any two or more above), a Ex all (any two or more above). Dealing or valuation day: Monday, (2) Tuesday, (3) Wednesday, Thursday, (4) Friday.

هكذا من الأصل

Law Report January 31 1991 Court of Appeal

Evading liability by deception

Regina v Attwell-Hughes
Before Lord Justice Bingham,
Mr Justice Hutchison and Mr
Justice Buckley
[Judgment January 14]

The offence of evading a liability by deception contrary to section 2(1)(b) of the Theft Act 1978 might be committed in one of two ways, either by the defendant intending to make permanent default in respect of a personal liability, or by a defendant intending to let another make permanent default in respect of that other's liability.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing in part an appeal by Clifford Henry Ian Attwell-Hughes who, on May 8, 1989 in Newport Crown Court, Isle of Wight (Judge, McCreery, QC and a jury) was convicted of three counts of obtaining property by deception and eight counts of evading liability by deception and was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for two years on each count, concurrent, fined in total £1,100, ordered to pay a sum not exceeding £8,000 towards the costs of the defence, £2,050 towards the prosecution costs and £2,439.17 in compensation.

All the convictions on the counts of evading liability by deception and on one count of obtaining property by deception were quashed; all the financial orders were quashed and a conditional discharge for 12 months was substituted for the sentence of imprisonment.

Section 2 of the 1978 Act provides: "(1) ... where a person by any deception ... (b) with intent to make permanent default in whole or in part on any existing liability to make a payment, or with intent to let another do so, dishonestly induces the creditor ... to wait for

payment ... or to forgo payment ... he shall be guilty of an offence."

Mr T. Adam S. Pearson, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr William B. Stephenson for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM said that the Dean House Hotel on the Isle of Wight was owned by a Mr Nicholson. When the appellant took over as manager early in 1986 he had authority to act on Mr Nicholson's behalf with regard to the hotel and to operate his bank account in relation to running the business of the hotel.

The evidence was that the indebtedness of the hotel business was made plain to the appellant, as also was the fact that the bank was unwilling to grant any overdraft but it seemed clear that the appellant wrote a number of cheques on the account which were returned unpaid.

In relation to the counts charging the appellant with evading liability by deception counsel submitted before the trial judge that section 2(1)(b) of the 1978 Act envisaged an offence which might be committed in one of two ways: (i) by a defendant who intended to make permanent default on his own liability to make a payment; (ii) by a defendant who intended to make default on behalf of another.

It was submitted that (i) was covered by the opening words of the subsection and (ii) was covered by "or with intent to let another do so"; that the opening words, in particular the reference to making permanent default, taken alone suggested an intention to escape a personal liability of the defendant, and that the draftsman's inclusion of

the language "or with intent to let another do so" plainly envisaged another course of action or another situation.

Basing himself on that analysis of the section, counsel for the appellant, at the end of the prosecution case, submitted to the judge, taking count 12 as an example, that the prosecution case could not be sustained and the count was wrongly charged because the value-added tax to which the count related was not an existing liability of the appellant, as the prosecution relied on, but that of Mr Nicholson. It was beyond doubt that the liability to pay that VAT was incurred before the appellant came on the scene at all.

Counsel generalised that submission to cover all the counts under the subsection, which necessarily presupposed a submission that all the liabilities were those of Mr Nicholson, on whose behalf the hotel's business was being conducted.

For that reason, it was submitted that that construction amounted to reading language into the section which was not there, namely reading in after "existing liability" the words "of the defendant". It was argued that the opening words of the subsection were clearly apt to cover liabilities of the appellant or another.

The trial judge accepted those submissions and accepted that it made no difference whether the liabilities were those of the appellant or of Mr Nicholson. It seemed to their Lordships that the judge had not directed his mind to the draftsman's purpose in including the words "or with intent to let another do so". Their Lordships could not put any construction on that subsection other than that for which counsel for the appellant contended.

The opening words and the absence of any reference to procuring the default of another clearly suggested a liability of a defendant whose liability it was.

One noticed the absence of any qualification such as "whether his own or another's" as was found in section 21(4). The words "or with intent to let another do so" clearly showed the draftsman's intention to differentiate the methods of committing the offence.

Considering count 12 in the light of that construction, clearly the question of dishonesty might appear in quite a different light, depending on whether the appellant was being said to have intended to make permanent default on behalf of another or whether he was being said to have done so on his own behalf.

Whether the liabilities were those of the appellant or of Mr Nicholson was a material question for the jury to pay regard to when considering what the judge had stressed rightly was the central question in the case, which was that of dishonesty.

It was not a correct direction simply to say to the jury that the question was one of dishonesty and it did not matter whether the liabilities were the appellant's or Mr Nicholson's.

Accordingly, and with no enthusiasm because the appellant's conduct appeared to have been in no way praiseworthy, their Lordships held that the judge's ruling and direction on the counts of evading liability were not satisfactory. The convictions on those counts would be quashed.

For other reasons, one of the counts of obtaining property by deception would also be quashed.

Solicitors: CPS, Portsmouth.

City code a matter of law for judge

Regina v Spens
The proper construction of the City Code on Take-overs and Mergers was a matter of law for the judge and not an issue for a jury to decide.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Leonard and Mr Justice Blofield) so held on January 25 giving judgment in open court dismissing an appeal by Patrick Michael Rex, Lord Spens, against a ruling by Mr Justice Henry under section 9(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the court accepted that the construction of documents was in the general sense a matter of fact for the jury but certain

types of document had to be construed from that general principle because construction by the judge was indispensable.

Documents which were intended to have a binding legal effect between parties, contracts, patents, Acts of Parliament and local government legislation fell into that latter category.

In the instant case the code sufficiently resembled legislation to be regarded in that category and was a form of agreement between parties. It therefore required consideration by the judge.

An additional factor was that if construction were left to juries there would be an inevitable danger of inconsistent findings and consequently inconsistent results.

Abortion declaration is not required

In re G (Mental patient)
Termination of pregnancy was not regulated by statute and it was not necessary that specific approval of the High Court should be a condition precedent to the carrying out of a termination of pregnancy. However, the conditions of section 1 of the 1976 Act had to be complied with.

No doubt the particular situation would be considered in the Law Commission's current investigation.

A formal declaration, as was considered desirable in *In re F* (Mental patient) (1990) 2 AC 1, was not required. Had it been, his Lordship would have made it.

But the Abortion Act 1967 provided fully adequate safeguards for the doctors involved. It was not necessary that specific approval of the High Court should be a condition precedent to the carrying out of a termination of pregnancy. However, the conditions of section 1 of the 1976 Act had to be complied with.

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Amateurism and the RFU

From Mr D. L. Sanders

Sir, I had been waiting for David Miller to emerge with his thoughts following the problems of the English rugby union players' strike in television and press reporters in Cardiff.

I write to express dismay that he should comment (January 26) upon matters which he does not appear to have fully investigated. The Rugby Football Union has a point of view and the door is open to him if ever he wishes to come and talk to us.

There is much in his article which is correct. He is right to criticise the International Board rulings which have led to the current state of affairs but he entirely misrepresents the RFU's involvement. If he had fully understood the RFU's attitude he would survive in some writing. The RFU should have the wit to accept that exploitation by it of the IRFB's slack diagnosis was bound to lead to aggravated instability.

It is precisely the slack diagnosis of the IRFB which the RFU has challenged since the ill-judged motion was adopted some months ago and it is still a question for the IRFB to deal with.

Far be it for me to make excuses for wishing to preserve the spirit of amateurism, but Miller hardly helps his case by citing the experience of other sports which may have been helped financially by disbanding amateurism at the expense of standards. I have no doubt that our game will survive in some form if we disband the principles we are fighting for. However, it is equally clear that the whole character of the sport will change and become unrecognisable from the one we have developed successfully over the course of our long history.

The RFU is continually reminding all concerned that we exist for the purpose of providing a wholesome team sport for the vast body of young men who have to go to work on the Monday following their weekend match. It has no intention of allowing commercial agents to exploit the game for their own interest in the game to drive a wedge between the interests of

Safety must be first priority

From Mr Richard C. Berry

Sir, Recently in Wengen a downhill racer lost his life after an accident on one of the most dangerous race courses in the Alps (reports, January 19 and 21). I have been a Fédération Internationale de Ski (FIS) technical delegate since 1974 and have specialised in the problems involved in downhill racing. I was not present when the accident took place and have only read reports of how it occurred. However, there has been a lack in the development of the safety precautions on this course.

A number of new safety systems have been evolved as well as updating the profile and design of courses, even special safety experts have been appointed to advise the aged FIS technical delegates, but the course design of the major classic events has changed little since before the war.

Although the technical delegate has a right to order greater safety protection, it would be more than his reputation was worth to question the design and safety of the Lauberhorn at Wengen. It has been about 20 years for many years that the course does not live up to the rules governing the design of all recently approved courses. Peter Mueller crashed very badly just above the finish area some years ago. Some safety measures were instituted as a result, but the sheer inappropriate nature of the terrain at this point makes the course invalid for downhill competition.

Some years ago the FIS agreed that the overall speeds on the downhill had exceeded the safety level. The setting of the course had to limit the average speed to under 100km per hour for women and 110km per hour for men. Even if this simple rule had been followed it would have reduced the possibility of such a major accident. But nothing has been done to study the stresses and strains that occur at high speed on a downhill. Should not the speeds be limited by the capabilities of the human body?

Watching this event has a great deal more excitement than, say, slalom and when I am skimming myself the speed is exhilarating. But I object most of all to Ms Steele's letter on a point of principle - in this case, the skier's right to do what they want as their actions endanger no one else.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER KIRK-BELL,
Tanyard Farm House,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

Some years ago the FIS agreed that the overall speeds on the downhill had exceeded the safety level. The setting of the course had to limit the average speed to under 100km per hour for women and 110km per hour for men. Even if this simple rule had been followed it would have reduced the possibility of such a major accident. But nothing has been done to study the stresses and strains that occur at high speed on a downhill. Should not the speeds be limited by the capabilities of the human body?

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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Jockey Club argues for radical finance reform

subsidy, any more than a copy right fee is a tax or public subsidy."

In its evidence, the Jockey Club goes for the bookmakers' jugular when it comes to assessing whether their contribution to the sport is adequate. "The relevant test of adequacy is whether the contribution represents a fair price for the service."

"This can be judged by reference to the proportion of the costs of the racing industry which it represents, and particularly by reference to the turnover of the industry whose existence it allows. By either criterion, the present payment which equals a royalty to les-

The Jockey Club also argues for the abolition of the levy free slice, aimed at helping small bookmakers, which enable each betting shop to pay no levy on the first £200,000 of turnover.

Guide to our in-line racecard

Bola argues that bookmakers add value to the "raw material" provided by racing. "It is in the interest of racing and society in general that the levy should be

"The introduction of a mar-

The bookmakers argue in favour of greater representation on the Levy Board, at the expense of the Jockey Club, to create equality between the "givers" and "takers".

The three government appointed members of the Levy Board highlight the negotiating advantages the bookmakers have under the existing levy system, and suggest changes are needed to overcome this imbalance.

HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs)
(5)
HUNTER 41 (Q) P Hobbs 8-11-10
VIEW 8 B Llewellyn 5-11-4 Miss S Hobbs 7
MAGENTA 91 Miss C Bowser 4-11-1 C Roemer 7
QATS 33 C Boscock 5-11-0 Shanon Maynardoyd 7
OATS 33 C Boswell 7-10-0 D Salter 7
STAR 113 (F,Q,S) J Long 12-10-0 G Position 7
4 Gorse Hunter, 4-1 Arran View, 10-1 Burn
er, 20-1 Lady Magenta.

A HANDICAP HURDLE (\$1,764; 3m)

16 (C, F) C Waldman 5-12-1 J Train (7)
TH 14 (B, C, F) J Jenkins 7-11-10
LANE 45 (B) P Hobbs 7-10-4 S Earle (7)
DAN ROSE 7 (B) M Medwyck 6-10-0
D Medwyck (7)
TH 7 (B) C Popham 6-10-0 S Doughtie (7)
EXPRESS 16 (B, C, F) A Ridout 10-10-0
P Holley (7)
ADO 236 B Smart 7-10-0 B Powell (7)
BAY 3 (F) J Long 5-15-0 Leanne Long (B)
ORIGIN 052 (F) N Mitchell 6-10-0

JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

EEK OFF P Mitchell 10-0..... T Pinfield (C)
ITEE 14 C Popham 10-0..... B Powell
SAUCE 16 M Haynes 10-0..... J Duggan
R LIGHTS 31 J Jenkins 10-4
F LADDER 68 C Brooks 10-4 Mr J Dorian (B)
E PUNNY 31 D Haydn Jones 10-4
E A 500 M T 10-4
S 500 M T 10-4

1 Francis Furness, 9-2 Cox Creek, 16-1 Or
arter Lights, Guarantee, 53-1 Glencoe Lady

WINDLAND GUERINAC HURDLE

AD 14 (D.F.) M Haynes 5-11-10... S Knightley
C PRINCE 7 (D.D.F.) J Pearce 5-11-5
FEELING 18 (D.C.F.) J Boreley 5-11-4
S THROE 8 (D.F.S.) Mrs D Hann
10-10-13 (Sw) S Smith Eccle

nagh, 14-1). **ALSO RAN:** 5 fav Liams Pride, 11-2 Skyker Wonder (pu), 13-3 Ribobella (pu), 7 Gee-A, Raleigh Gazelle (1), 8 Moe Greene (8th), 14 Matta Mae Flyer, 20 Ocky's Fear, 33 Karmel, Siddig General Merchant (4th), Scale Model (5th), 14 ran. Nk, 2r, 3l, 14l, 1/4l, G Ham at Arlington. Tot: \$380; CF: 10, 22.80, \$4.20. **OP:** \$117.00. **CSF:** \$44.46. **Tricest:** \$480.75.

4.15 (2m 30yd hole) 1. **DRAMATIC EVENT** (1 Twoney, 4-1); 2. *Doc's Coat* (G Bradley, 15-8 fav); 3. *Silent Ring* (M Richards, 9-2); **ALSO RAN:** 3 *Barrens Lad* (2m), 10 *Lynn* (4th), 20 *Mir Key*, *Thornfield* (5th), *Horatien*, 8 ran, 41, 34, 20d, 11st; J. Moore at Andover, Total: \$8.70; \$7.30, \$2.10, \$1.80. DP: \$8.20. CSF: \$12.13. Tricost: \$29.06.
Placepot: \$24.78

MERCHANT 29 (Lady Baywick) G Gresham 6-11-7

2.40 (5f) 1, On The Edge (Alex Greaves, 7-4); 2, Able Jet (8-4 fav); 3, South Croftly (10-1). 9 ran. 1st, 3l. T Barron. Total: £200. DF: £1.50. £1.10. £2.70. DF: £2.00. CSF: £4.90.

2.10 (1m) 1, Statejack (J Hunter, 7-4); 2, Hooting Stone (8-4); 3, Saint Callula (8-4 fav). 4 ran. 1st, 4l. R O Elsworth. Total: £2.40. DF: £2.80. CSF: £5.81.

2.40 (1m) 1, Steenson Express (A Bates, 5-4 fav); 2, Shining Jewel (5-2); 3, Mr

Cheelechops (12-1); 6 mlt; 175 Jt P.
Kellaway. Tot: £3.80; £1.50, £1.70. DF: £2.20. CSF: £4.69.

3.10 (7) 1, Poedimannich (Alex)
Graevae, 5-11 fav; 2, **Corrus** (3-1)-3, Top
Anne (25-1), 9 nrt; 12, nrt T.Barron. Tot:
£1.60; £1.50, £1.10, £4.30. DF: £3.30.
CSF: £3.65.

3.40 (7) 1, Crosby (C Rutter, 3-1 fav; 2,
Hard Sea (100-30), 3, Verdant Boy (7-1).
10 ran, 2J, 3J P Kellaway. Tot: £2.00;
£1.10, £1.30, £2.20. DF: £4.10. CSF:
£12.28. Tricast: £55.32.

4.10 (1m 4d) 1, Cethelle (S Parks, 20-1);
a. Hironomye, 5-1; 3, Bedouin Prince

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Wagoner, Oklahoma
May 1968

CRICKET

One statistic that is more than a trivial pursuit for Gower

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, PERTH

THE small print of cricket, its jungle of statistics, has never been more than a trivia to David Gower. Tomorrow, however, he will break the habit of a lifetime and give a statistic his undivided attention as he seeks an unarguable epitaph for a career which has divided us all with its perversity.

It is a characteristic of Gower to achieve his glories and commit his sins when they are least expected. Hence his brilliant centuries in Melbourne and Sydney, where some would not even have picked him, and his idiotic dismissal in Adelaide when the game and the pitch were set up for him.

He will walk a tightrope with artistic assurance, then fall foolishly on his face over a banana skin. He is as infuriatingly impulsive as he is enormously gifted and the game will be immeasurably duller without him.

That time will soon be upon us, for Gower fully intends this to be his last tour. His relish for playing the game, even at top level, is visibly waning, and with Graeme Hick available against West Indies this summer, we are indubitably about to witness Gower's 114th and last Test match.

If so, he will have equalled Colin Cowdrey's record number of England appearances. Much more important to him, however, will be to beat Geoffrey Boycott's England run record and so, tomorrow, he is back on that tightrope in search of the 67 runs he wants more than he will admit.

Boycott, ironically, will be in the television commentary box when his painstakingly won, jealously guarded status is threatened by a player whom the frugal Yorkshireman might consider flawed and frivolous.

Gower began the Adelaide Test a week ago needing another 94 to pass Boycott's total of 8,114. He managed only 11 and 16 and his

stunning first-innings surrender to a blatant trap, and from the last ball before lunch, will conspire with his airborne absence without leave in any official case to terminate his England career.

But for all the indignation heaped upon him, it is surely inconceivable that Gower will be denied a last appearance in the country where he commands such devotion. He may have clouded the issue with his misdemeanours but he has top-scored in four of the eight innings in this series and his total of 367 runs is second only to that of his captain, Graham Gooch.

Gower and Gooch have always had different horizons. Gower lives for today and his actions are spontaneous, intuitive; Gooch is conservative, intense and calculating. It would be marginal whether he was more dismayed by Gower's fly-past or his fatal leg-side flick. Both, in Gooch's rulebook, constitute dereliction of duty, for he is a man who believes nothing is worth doing with less than total commitment.

This attitude has been implicit in Gooch's response to apparently impossible targets on the final days of the last two Tests. When most would have acknowledged a lost cause, Gooch had the courage to challenge logic and history. It has had two significant effects. The first is a return of the joyful, tenacious stroke-play of his past, the style he sacrificed to the burden of being indispensable. The second is a ruffling of Australian feathers, a team grown accustomed to undisputed rule suddenly confronted by an upriser.

Gooch's batting has taken the inevitability out of the series. It has been leadership by vivid example, which is the way he does things best. One might occasionally argue with his tactics, but to labour this is to miss the essence of his captaincy.

Its importance to England,

in the brief run-up to this final Test, cannot be overstated. After 12 relentless months on the road, these are tired players and disappointed ones, for the captain has left them in no doubt as to their inadequacies. But they have not, despite early warnings, been swamped by Australia.

If only they could put five days together without one of their patented batting collapses they might even win here in Perth, for Australia are vulnerable, with patchy form behind them and the consuming Caribbean mission ahead of them.

There are imponderables about both teams, the pitch and the weather. First, England, who may prolong the anguish of Jack Russell by again choosing five bowlers. If, however, Fraser's fitness is thought an unacceptable risk, Phil Newport will win his first cap for two years. Fraser yesterday had a cortisone injection in his hip.

Allan Border is determined to play his 117th consecutive Test for Australia and is refusing painkillers of any kind for his strained groin. "I guess I just like to know when I'm hurting," he says.

The Perth pitch, not as quick as it once was, still gives the pace bowlers plenty of help. Last week, however, the captains of Western Australia and Victoria complained about dangerously crumbling cracks during a Sheffield Shield game. If that should happen again, this series might be over sooner than planned.

And the weather? Perth is a furnace. In mid-afternoon yesterday it touched 43°C, about one degree Fahrenheit for each of David Gower's Test caps.

Gower's appeal against the £1,000 fine imposed last week by Peter Lush, the tour manager, after his joy-ride in an aircraft during the match against Queensland, will be heard by a Test and County Cricket Board committee at Lord's after the tour ends.

Bateman tackles the long and winding road

Marathon offers the chance to help

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT



THE TIMES
ADT London
Marathon Appeal

HOW many sportsmen stop to think before saying they can see the light at the end of the tunnel? Steve Bateman does. For him, it is not a convenient cliché expressing optimism after injury; it means more than a pick-up in form or a financial rescue package for a club deep in debt.

Bateman suffers from retinitis pigmentosa. "It is the third largest cause of blindness among the working population in Britain," he said. At the moment there is no cure, but progress is being made. Perhaps an answer will be found in the next few years; otherwise he will be facing "real problems" by his mid-40s, he has been told.

If the light is fading literally for Bateman, figuratively, he said, there was some at the end of the tunnel for himself and other sufferers. "Last year they identified one of the genes that caused one type of retinitis pigmentosa. Research these past three years has come on much faster than in previous years."

Meanwhile, he is helping with the tunnel-digging. On April 21, he will run the ADT London Marathon for the British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society as a member of The Times/Unisys London Marathon Appeal.

"The society was founded over ten years ago and raises funds for research," Bateman said. "It also helps with the welfare of its many members. There is little state aid for research and it is important for members to raise as much as possible."

It will be his first marathon. He started running only four months ago, resigned to the fact that his football-playing days were over. He was in his early teens when he first encountered visual difficulties and in his early 20s when the condition was confirmed. Now, aged 34, football, like driving, is off limits. "Any talent I had could not cover up for the deficiency in my eyesight and ball sports are more or less out of the question now," he said.

Bateman, from Ipswich, has lost part of his visual field. Normally, crowds are a problem and the London Marathon, with 25,000 runners, is quite a crowd. "I cannot see people coming from the side and cutting across," Bateman said. But he has no worries. People running marathons tend to go for the shortest route and keep going straight.

As the days grow longer, so Bateman's training opportunities become easier. He cannot see to train in the dark. "I train at lunchtimes, weekends and early mornings when it is light," he said. "It is light that most people take for granted. Not Bateman."

"I hope there will be a cure by the end of my lifetime but, if not for myself, I want to help future generations avoid what I am having to suffer," he said.



Making strides: Bateman puts in the training miles

The Times and Unisys, the official ADT London Marathon computer service, hope that by featuring the efforts of our team of fund-runners we will help them find sponsorship. If you wish to support one or more of them, write clearly stating your beneficiaries to The Times/Unisys London Marathon Appeal, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London EC1A 3RN. We will send you our donations.

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund-raiser and a job or loan and a jumbo cheque respectively to the second and third.

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Public School Wds..... 22
British Polys..... 16

IF YOU are a student there is a lot to play for in the coming 12 months: apart from domestic competition and internationals, an English students party will visit Canada in July and the student world cup will be played in Italy next year. Thus the first of the British Polytechnics representative games, at Old Deer Park yesterday, took on a greater significance than usual.

The Polytechnics play British Colleges next month and the UAU in March, and on the evidence of their game with Public School Wanderers, have some useful talent. Sadly it was marred by a string of injuries of which the most serious was to McCune, the Welsh wing, who was taken to hospital with a damaged ankle ligaments in the first half.

They were also opposed by a tolerably strong Wanderers XV which, however, much they abused a constant stream of possession, had to make weight and experience tell in the end despite the gallantry of some of the student tackling and a somewhat straitlaced referee. Nonetheless it was not until the final quarter that they recovered the lead, an injury-time try by a winger, an underdog goal to victory by four tries and two penalty goals to two goals and a try.

Bray, the Oxford Blue now back in England after a visit to his native Australia, kicked the Wanderers into an early lead with two penalties but the Polytechnics, vainly hunting for scraps of ball, were delighted to be presented with a try when Evans scooped off for 70 metres and out of Henry's tackle to score. The persistence of Atkins and Richard Eastburn, one of twins in the Polytechnics pack, was rewarded when Akun-Olugbemi - a name to conjure with - dodged his way over to give his side a 12-6 interval lead.

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SKIING

Eberharter breaks Girardelli to win the combined gold

FROM BRIAN JAMES IN SAALBACH

BEFORE an exultant audience consisting largely of his hard-drinking cousins, Stefan Eberharter added the world combined title to the gold medal for super-giant slalom he had taken near the start of these championships.

Such is the view of this event, when performance of two disparate skills is computer-calculated, it will be less the title or even its medal that will mean most to Eberharter, at 21 the boy of the Austrian team, far greater was the menace of the man he had to defeat head-to-head, the outstanding Marc Girardelli.

Eberharter, who learned his skiing in this region and did his training on this hill, went into the morning run on the slalom course no more than handily placed after Monday's downhill. But he swung beautifully through 58 gates in 47.45sec.

That was well within Girardelli's reach, but the slightest of errors, when his outside ski lurched away at an early gate, left the Luxembourgier trailing 0.13sec.

It is more complicated than that. Penalties from the downhill also had to be added - at a rate of roughly 10 points per second each man is behind the downhill leader. What the sums came to was that Girardelli had to be faster than Eberharter by 1.4sec over the second run.

By half-way the Luxembourgier, skiing with all the fluent aggression that makes even the nursery sloppers look up and know they watch a master at his work, had totally overhauled the Austrian's lead. But the massive groans of Eberharter's clan changed to a throaty cheer as Girardelli, heading downhill in a charge like some brave sabreur and with only 10 gates to go, had a ski slide from beneath his lungs and crashed out.

"I heard the yell, knew

Girardelli had fallen," Eberharter said. "Then the crowd's voice pushed me down the hill." Not quite. He still had to ski hard enough to shake off pursuers, sensibly enough to avoid Girardelli's fate, for his medal.

Thus the two best skiers in the world have crashed within a day of each other, within yards of each other, overlooking the drive for victory. Girardelli lives to ski another day, in the slalom. But the injured Petra Kronberger is out of today's women's combined slalom, and perhaps the two slalom races left.

Views vary about the combined, an event for skiers' Jacks and Jills, rarely for its masters. What cannot be denied is its complex, scoring. Crowds had long been invited to salute the medal winners, Eberharter, Paul Accola and Günther Mader, when a shamevoiced announcer explained that the computer had finished its sums, and in fact the Italian, Kristian Ghedina, had the silver medal. A simpler system is imperative so that spectators know what they are watching.

The British handily knew what they were watching: Sean Gamble's nineteenth place in the morning, his chance to sixteenth in the afternoon (for 24th overall) in his first championships and the toughest slalom of his life deserve the applause of more than just his countrymen.

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THE TIMES

SPORT

Decision day for Charlton is close

BOBBY Charlton will decide this week whether to offer football an alternative to voting Ken Bates back on to the League management committee. But Charlton, a Manchester United director, stressed that he would not become involved in a personality clash with the Chelsea chairman.

"I don't want any fight with Ken Bates," Charlton, whose main concern is that he will not have enough time to do the job justice, said. "In lots of ways, I get on with him, and I don't want to be used as a pawn."

Bates resigned from the management committee on Tuesday — 18 days after his club were fined a record £105,000 by the League over irregular payments to players. He then announced he would contest the vacancy.

With the Crystal Palace chairman, Ron Noades, who lost to Bates by nine votes to three, with eight abstentions, last summer, unwilling to challenge, it is difficult to see where a rival candidate will come from if Charlton declines.

"I'd love to help," Charlton, who attempted to win a seat on the eight-man management committee 18 months ago, said. "Everybody in football has an ambition to get on the governing body. I had that feeling when I went forward last time and lost."

"I'm on the FA council now and can contribute to the game, and I have to give the management committee a lot of thought. I've got so many business commitments. It's a real dilemma."

"I don't want to say 'no' but I have to be fair to other people. If I'm going to stand, I have to put my name forward by February 6. I'll speak to the appropriate people at the club and my wife."

"I don't want to do it unless I can do it properly," he said. "You almost need to be retired and, if I feel I haven't got the time, then it's not on."

Charlton would attract a good many votes, and one leading administrator said: "If no one else stands, then it would look like a vote of confidence in Ken Bates."

Under League regulations, Bates — as a club chairman — can nominate himself for re-election to the management committee. But Charlton's candidacy would have to be sanctioned by Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman, and Ken Merrett, the secretary at Old Trafford.

Bracewell's return, page 10

Liverpool linked to Speedie as Villa deal stalls

By CHRIS MOORE

LIVERPOOL moved last night to sign David Speedie, the Coventry City and Scotland midfielder, from under the noses of Aston Villa.

The deal is expected to be confirmed this morning and completed in time for Speedie to be available to make his debut in the televised game against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday.

It is understood that Speedie met officials from Anfield at a secret rendezvous yesterday afternoon, having earlier failed to agree personal terms with Aston Villa.

Liverpool are apparently prepared to pay £700,000 for Speedie, who is aged 30, and meet the player's personal pay demand — believed to be approximately £3,000 a week.

The fiery Scot will certainly add a competitive edge to Liverpool's midfield department in their quest to retain the League championship but the fact that he is not FA Cup eligible might also have been a significant attraction to Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, before the fourth-round replay at Brighton last night.

But Speedie will not help Liverpool's cause when the new regulations come into force for European Cup competitions next season. Clubs

will then be restricted to a maximum of four non-English players in their team.

Liverpool are still banned from competing in Europe as a result of the Heysel stadium disaster but the indications are they could be readmitted next season.

Speedie joined Coventry from Chelsea for a then club-record fee of £750,000 in July 1987 and was their leading scorer with nine goals last season.

The Scottish FA today set about resolving the status of the Rangers midfielder, Nigel Spackman, who was a colleague of Speedie's at Chelsea. The SFA chief executive, Jim Farry, is seeking an urgent meeting of the four British football associations to establish whether Spackman, who was born in England, can play for Scotland.

Spackman, who has a Scottish grandfather, was included in the Scottish squad to play the Soviet Union, then withdrawn following a dispute over his eligibility.

Farry said: "The position is that late yesterday afternoon we received an indication of FA disquiet about Nigel's inclusion in our squad. There was contact between the two associations to the extent that last night it was decided to

withdraw the player from the squad pending clarification of the position."

Spackman said he hoped the dispute would be "sorted out sooner rather than later".

"I understand that the British countries have an agreement covering this situation, but I believe each case should be judged on its merits. I accept that it might be different for a young player, but it seems clear to me that I am not in England's plans so there shouldn't really be any objection."

English FA officials this morning stressed that they had not objected to Spackman's inclusion in the Scotland squad.

"There has been no communication between the Football Association and the Scottish FA. We have certainly not said he must not play," Glen Kirton, the head of external affairs for the FA, said.

"We are not going to object in the case of Spackman. What we had intended doing, and will still do, is write to the SFA pointing out that on the face of it his inclusion would be in contravention of our agreement with the Home Associations."

Dolan accepts an unlikely mission

By MARTIN SEARBY

TERRY Dolan became Hull City's fifth manager in four seasons yesterday and was immediately charged with taking the club, currently bottom of the second division, into the first. To further complicate an already formidable task, there will be no money available for new players until Dolan has severely pruned the current staff of 29.

Richard Chetnam, the chairman, said: "I am well aware of what Terry achieved at Bradford City when he took them from virtually the bottom to within a point of the first division in 16 months, and we want him to do the same for us. I said when I took over as chairman that I wanted Hull to be in the top flight, and that ambition has not been diminished despite recent setbacks."

The first thing Dolan must do is cauterise Hull's flow of

goals. Hull have conceded 67 in 27 League matches — the worst in the League — as well as five in their FA Cup third-round defeat by Notts County.

Dolan, aged 40, can take some heart from the fact his new team has also scored 41 goals, three more than West Ham, who lead the division. He made it clear that Payton and Swan, who have accounted for 30 goals, would not be for sale.

"A club this size cannot sustain such a large playing staff and a number will have to go," Dolan said. "But it would clearly be foolish to sell two major assets to buy defenders because good strikers are at a premium throughout the game. I am confident I can pull things round but it is going to take a devil of a lot of hard work and those who have no stomach for it have no place here."

Dolan replaces Stan Ternent, his former assistant at Bradford, who complained he had not been backed by the board of directors. "I think that is unfair," Chetnam said. "He spent £740,000 in 14 months here but simply did not get the results we required. Ternent was dismissed four weeks ago."

The chairman confirmed that Hull were originally refused admission to approach Dolan by Rochdale, but after his resignation last Monday they felt free to negotiate a three-and-a-half year contract. "I was away on holiday and when I returned Terry was a free agent," Chetnam said. "We had a lot of applications but in view of his record he was the man we wanted."

Dolan took Rochdale to the fifth round of the FA Cup for the first time last season and left them ninth in the fourth division, compared to 22nd when he took over 14 months earlier. At Bradford he reached the second-division play-offs and had Cup successes over Everton and Tottenham, but was dismissed following an FA Cup defeat by Hull City.

Uncertain club role for Tapie

PARIS — Bernard Tapie, the suspended Marseilles president, and the club's striking football players delayed a scheduled meeting by 24 hours yesterday as uncertainty grew over whether he planned to resign.

Tapie was banned for a year by a disciplinary committee on Monday for damaging sporting morale and insulting referees and has said he would urge his players to end their indefinite strike, called in protest at the sanction on their president.

A meeting was scheduled yesterday but Tapie, who remained in Paris, where he met Jean-Paul Huchon, cabinet director of Michel Rocard, the French prime minister is expected to talk to his players in Marseilles tomorrow, 24 hours before they are to play a first division fixture in Bordeaux.

Tapie has invested large amounts of money to transform Marseilles into a team capable of winning the European titles and after his ban on Monday said that he would not appeal and would leave the club. Since then his comments have been guarded and speculation has grown that he may appeal and that he could continue in office.

Michel Hidalgo, the general manager of Marseilles, said that Tapie's first remarks on resigning were made without reflection after learning of his surprise ban. "He's a winner and he's going to fight. I'm certain he will not resign," Hidalgo said. Tapie had opened "a box of dreams" at Marseilles, "He can't go just like that," he added.

Jean Fournet-Fayard, president of the French Football Federation (FFF), said the one-year ban on Tapie, the last four months of which are suspended, did not mean he could not remain as president of Marseilles but added that Tapie would be unable to represent the club in dealings with the FFF or the French League.



Springing into action: England's latest replacement on the Ashes tour of Australia, Phil Newport, bowling in the nets at Perth yesterday. Test preview, page 30

Yorkshire hit hard by record financial loss

By MARTIN SEARBY

YORKSHIRE county cricket club made a record loss last year when an £81,000 surplus was turned into a £28,000 deficit, a figure that would have been a great deal worse had Leeds Cricket and Rugby League Football Club, their landlords and the owners of Headingley, not given them a rebate of £40,000 overpaid in previous years.

In figures released today, the membership has dropped from £9,400 to £8,300 and subscription money is down on the previous year, despite an increase in prices. In his report, Peter Townsend, the treasurer, points out that expenses increased at four times the rate of income with the players' wage bill going up by £44,000.

The first team cost £163,000 to put in the field, an increase

of £35,000, and the total of cricket expenses soared from £603,000 in 1989 to £742,415. Attendances were down for all competitions and the money received from the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) increased by less than £7,000 to a total of £332,687, a figure boosted by the income from satellite television coverage of the Sunday League and the Benson and Hedges Cup.

The smallest county, Derbyshire, with 1,500 members, made a £30,000 profit and the future looks gloomy for Yorkshire, which does not have a ground of its own. "We are in a deep recession and I cannot see it improving in the short term," Townsend said.

The figures are far worse than any previously recorded, the biggest deficit coming in 1982, when the county lost

£11,350, mainly as the result of a substantial drop in the revenue from the TCCB. Many members feel the financial situation will not be resolved until the club has premises of its own and there is a motion that the county should build on a new site tabled for the annual meeting in Leeds on February 23.

David Bairstow, the county's former wicketkeeper who was not retained at the end of the summer, received £74,000 from his testimonial year.

Leicestershire county cricket club lost more than £18,000 last season, their biggest deficit for more than 20 years. The previous season the loss was just over £3,000.

Describing the loss as "extremely disappointing", the chief executive, Mike Turner, blamed it on an increase of £120,000 in the running costs of the club. Because of an increase in salaries, the size of the staff and the appointment of Bobby Simpson as the team manager, the cost of the professional staff went up by £75,000.

Turner also said: "One of the most worrying aspects of the accounts is the further decline in membership. The income from this source now provides less than ten per cent of the income needed to run the club."

Moody free for start

WORCESTERSHIRE will have their new signing, Tom Moody, available from the start of next season following his exclusion from the Australian party to tour the West Indies.

The former Warwickshire batsman will link up with his county for the pre-season tour of Zimbabwe in March.

Northamptonshire have signed Paul Taylor, the former Derbyshire seam bowler, on a two-year contract. He has spent the past two seasons with Staffordshire.

Warwickshire, who finished fifth in the Britannic Assurance county championship last season, have announced an after-tax profit of £69,547 for the year ended September 30, 1990.

A points change to suit Mansell

By NORMAN HOWELL

FISA, motor racing's governing body, is changing the points-scoring system for the Formula One season starting at Phoenix on March 10. Drivers will drop only two results out of the 16 points-scoring races where previously the best 11 results counted towards the world championship.

Fisa, at its meeting in Paris yesterday, said that pole position at Suzuka in Japan would be changed from the right side of the grid to the left. This follows the extraordinary start and subsequent accident involving Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna as they contended for the title last season.

Senna had complained before the race that the right-hand position did not favour the driver who had won pole. Events seemed to confirm this as Prost's Ferrari easily outpaced the McLaren-Honda over the first few yards.

Fisa's new points system is intended to put a higher value on a win, which should encourage the more positive, go-getting drivers such as Senna and Nigel Mansell. Previously, the winner collected nine points, the runner-up six and others four, three, two and one. Now the winner will get ten. The others remain the same.

The fact that only two drivers' bad results will be dropped in a season, so that he can score over 14 races, may paradoxically encourage more percentage driving. A reliable car, capable of regularly scoring points, especially in second and third position, may have a better chance of winning the championship than one that is superfast but fails to conclude some of the races.

Fisa has decided that from 1992 Formula One fuel must conform to EC regulations, which means unleaded. The debate over lead is seen by some to be a smokescreen. The problem seems to be to get one particular fuel manufacturer to agree to a set of standards for the races and for qualifying.

MP chairs Olympics truce talks

By JOHN GOODBODY

ON THE eve of the deadline for British bids to stage the 2000 Olympic Games, Kate Hoey, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, yesterday stepped in to mediate between the rival London groups.

She will chair a meeting at the House of Commons on Monday in an attempt to settle the differences between London Olympic 2000, led by Sebastian Coe, and the London Council for Sport and Recreation, on which there are representatives from the boroughs and also sports bodies in the capital. Both parties have agreed to the meeting.

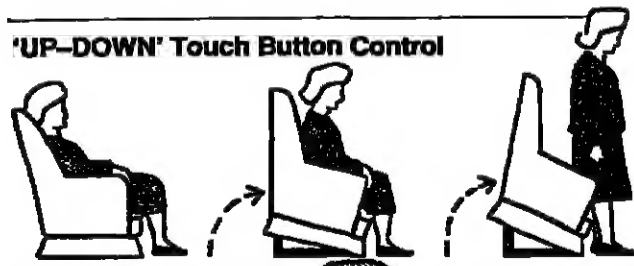
However, the British Olympic Association (BOA) will now have to decide whether to extend its deadline. Technically, it could disqualify London since it has repeatedly said it will consider only one bid from a city and not two bids.

The association may be prepared to wait a few days but would consider it unfair to Manchester, which is also bidding for the Games, if the deadline were extended further.

This morning, Dick Palmer, the secretary of the BOA, is expected to open three letters confirming the bids for the Games — two from London and one from Manchester.

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Petra-ferver as Austria salutes its wonder woman

From BRIAN JAMES

IN SALLBACH

SEEN in silhouette as she flies, helmeted and half-crouched, towards the finish of any ski race, Petra Kronberger has an outline exactly that of a pound sign. Supreme symbolism, for since her entry into the world championships here in Austria with a gold medal in the fearsome downhill last Saturday, she had been expected every day to ratchet up, notch after notch, her own spiral of fame and riches.

The setback of her finish-line crash in the super-giant event on Tuesday was severe. Now she will not run in the second half of the combination today, and a certain second gold will be thus denied her; there are even doubts about her knee mending enough for her to race in the two slaloms which were

to have filled her bag with more gold.

Trauma, yes, tragedy no. For one thing, she is young enough, at 23, to contest many more world championships. And if rest now enables her to return to the World Cup circuit in two weeks to take up where she left off — with a huge lead over every rival — the words of her countryman, Franz Klammer ("She will be the best ever — yes, even than Moser-Pröll") will sound less like hype, more like forecast.

Another factor is the woman herself. It is easy to be swept into error by the Petra-ferver, a rash that colours front pages, shop-fronts and T-shirts.

"There is no Austrian film star or footballer so famous," said one of the entourage, pressing close in the mad moments of downhill victory. "Austria again has a wonder woman." The last to earn that sort of title was Moser-Pröll, the champion of the Seventies. Her grateful village clubbed together and brought her land on which to build herself a hotel.

Kronberger's rewards in these sophisticated times will be rather less DIY. Sponsors will pay her around \$75,000 via the official pool for her medal. Insiders guess that the unofficial pay-off will be ten times that. Add the fees for opening supermarkets, endorsing soaps...

Her wish, she said, was now to get away and go for a hike. Alone and unseen, she implied. She knows the impossibility of that. After winning

last year's World Cup, the St Anton bank, where she has a summer job, moved her into a back room from her post on a counter: queues of the curious and the questioning had brought the bank's business to standstill. Marriage, retirement and emigration are her only way now to anonymity.

Can Petra Kronberger handle such pressure? Skiing, these flying young women are the fleeting stuff of fantasy. Stripped of their racing suits (figuratively speaking, of course), they dissolve into simple Alpine *mädchen*: sisters of those, all pinafores, blouses and pigtails, that bring coffee and strudel. The press conferences of most are excruciating. "My skis ran well... I made no mistake... I feel happy to

win... and I owe much to my trainer" on the banality-meter score only a point or two below the "I want to travel and help people" of every beauty queen.

Yet Kronberger could be different. A friend came upon her, deeply distressed at the outbreak of the Gulf war, the political consequences of which she explained in detail. Did ski races not seem unimportant, he asked. Her response was a line from Goethe: "if the world shall end tomorrow, then still I shall plant a tree today."

A lady who believes that the greatest man this century was not Austria's great skier, Klammer, but Gorbachev, and happily will take an hour to explain why, has many facets.